

**CITY OF SPOKANE**  
**PARKS AND NATURAL**  
**LANDS MASTER PLAN**  
**JUNE 2022 | FINAL PLAN**







North Bank grand opening at Riverfront Park, May 2021

# LETTER FROM DIRECTOR

I love seeing the ways people use our City’s parks in their daily lives. It’s walking out the door of a downtown restaurant and stepping into a 50-acre park at the roaring river falls, hiking the paths of Palisades, and catching a softball game at Merkel. It’s walking through Duncan Garden with ice cream cones, listening to the Symphony play a free concert under the Pavilion lights, a child’s birthday party at a picnic shelter, and a pick-up game at the neighborhood basketball court. Parks are part of our life’s moments, big and small.



Garrett Jones

Spokane’s treasured park system is no accident. It was laid with an incredible foundation by the Olmsted Brothers and founding members of the Park Board, and in the many years since, our vibrant parks have grown and flourished. That’s thanks to thoughtful daily care from volunteers and staff, and community investments including bond projects like aquatics/athletics in 2007, and Riverfront Park in 2014.

No doubt what we have is special. The question is, where are we headed next? We started this master planning effort by asking the community earnest questions – what do you want from your parks, what are we doing well, what can we do better, where are the gaps, what do you want to see more of?

We heard from more than 5,000 of you, and we couldn’t be more grateful. Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts on the survey (translated into six languages), at pop-up events, with our ambassadors, in focus groups, and through online tools. You can see highlights of that feedback in an infographic in the pages ahead.

This master plan is shaped by what we learned from you.

It will serve as our guide, shaping our focus, direction, and spending priorities over the next ten years. It will give us a tool to match funding sources – like Parks funds, bond funds, donations, or grants – with priority projects, and ensure we apply limited resources in ways that match community need and desire.

It’s an honor to work for Spokane Parks & Recreation, and we take to heart the tremendous responsibility to preserve its past, nurture its present, and ensure its future. Thank you for the vital role you play. Together, we envision a bright decade ahead.

Sincerely,

Garrett Jones  
Director of Spokane Parks and Recreation Department



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Pavilion at Riverfront Park

# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## CONTEXT

Spokane is a special place. Its location in the inland northwest and proximity to the Spokane River has made it a place for gathering, sustenance and healing for its inhabitants since time immemorial. The Spokane Tribe of Indians, the original inhabitants of the land, lived a semi-nomadic life of hunting, fishing and gathering along the banks of the Spokane River. The City’s original parks plan from 110 years ago formed a commitment for providing accessible green space that is restorative and nurturing.

Flash forward to today, Spokane is recognized as a city with a legacy in parks planning. The Olmsted Brothers, the nation’s most prominent landscape architecture firm, wrote the first parks plan in 1913. Spokane’s built environment has been shaped by its park spaces. Almost ninety percent of Spokanites can access a park within a 10 minute walk from where they live. Currently, the City of Spokane has 105 parks, golf course, natural lands, and parkway properties constituting approximately 3,800 acres. Expo ‘74, a world’s fair held on the south bank of the Spokane River, laid the groundwork for developing Riverfront Park; renovations within the last 10 years make it one of the nation’s most scenic urban parks according to National Geographic.

Past parks master plans are to thank for establishing visions concentrated on creating our major signature parks that have put us on the map. A contrast with this plan was discovery that what is needed is a shift in focus

to improving the many less iconic park and natural lands offerings that greatly contribute to a sense of community and quality of life. This distribution of investments is directed to smaller projects such as revitalizing older parks, conserving and enhancing natural lands, adapting to be more resilient to climate change and adjusting the ways Spokane operates to be more responsive to our citizens.

## MASTER PLAN CONTENTS

Preserve and Play is a plan about honoring Spokane’s deep heritage and maintaining the momentum of its recent successes. The four themes of this plan—**Land, Water, People and Legacy**—celebrate the importance of its natural setting and commitment to its health, support creating accessible park spaces as a place for community building and inclusivity and develop strategies for investing in the parks and recreation system’s future. An action plan creates a road map for implementation and creates a framework for decision-making based on equity, needs and level of service, park conditions and strategic opportunities. The themes and action plan were crafted from thorough analysis of the park system distribution, quality and history of investments, bringing in measures of diversity, social and health vulnerability, economic disparity and environmental justice to determine areas of need.

Voices from the community are woven throughout the plan, marking outreach efforts that were successful due to partnerships with Plan Ambassadors that reached people typically underrepresented in planning processes, such as residents and youth experiencing homelessness.

## PLAN HIGHLIGHTS

The following pages provide a summary of the major items within this plan: an overall plan vision statement, guiding principles, plan themes, a concluding map noting geographically based recommendations for new projects, and concept plans for three park sites to demonstrate how ideas from this master plan may be applied.

### Key Projects:

- » Concept plans for Minnehaha, Meadowglen, and Cowley Parks;
- » Focus on improving the condition and types of amenities offered at neighborhood and community parks;
- » Vision for future acquisition and preservation of natural lands as areas that provide high quality habitat for wild life, scenic views and recreational opportunities;
- » Framework for a citywide policy as it relates to future park development and dedication of funding as Spokane grows; and
- » Recommendations for water conservation and aquatic recreation access.

### A Plan of Action:

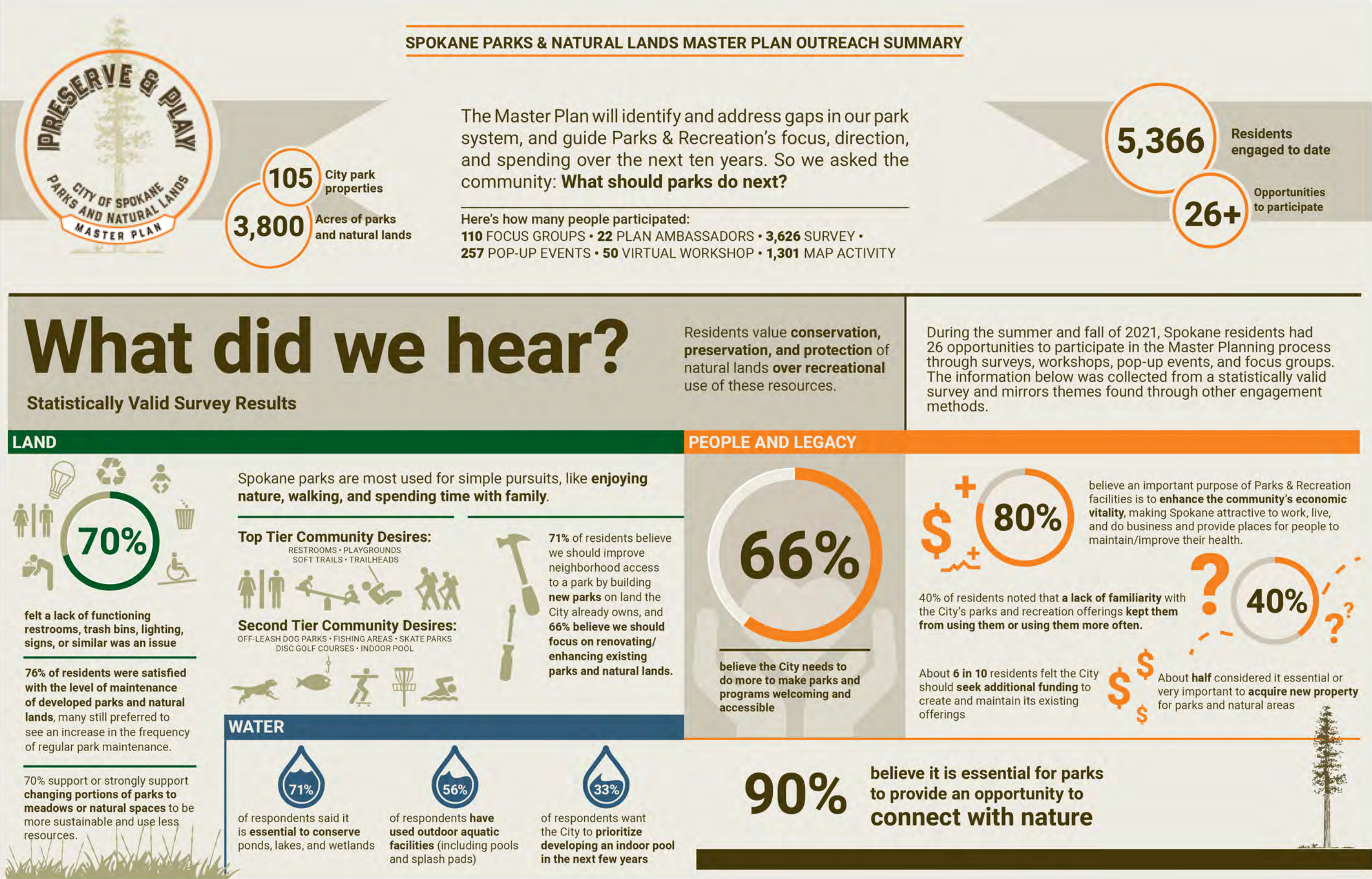
- » The Implementation Action Plan (Chapter 7) provides guidance on the order of execution for specific projects.

» Prioritization is based on a matrix of need based on whether the park is in an Equity Zone, existing needs and level of service in the neighborhood, existing park condition, and opportunities for funding and partnerships. The below diagram is a framework for future decision-making for park investments.

The Spokane Parks and Natural Lands system is on the precipice of an exciting new phase, with the potential to respond to changing needs and desires of the community, that will take funding and support to make it a reality. This evolution of the park system provides clarity and focus for equitable investments, a more inclusive approach that acknowledges community diversity, and integration of climate action strategies into park management and design.



Figure 1: Preserve and Play Overview





# MASTER PLAN AT-A-GLANCE

## VISION STATEMENT

Spokane is a visionary city, founded with parks and natural lands at its heart and with commitment to continue to build a community legacy. We focus on creating prosperity with equitable park development and targeted outcomes that uplift people. We cherish our special landscape with a strong environmental ethic.

## PRESERVE & PLAY

At the heart of this plan are two guiding principles that reflect the values of the residents of Spokane: preserve and play. A nod to both the region’s historic conservation efforts and contemporary desire to mitigate the effects of climate change, preservation is woven into each theme, goal, and strategy. The Inland Northwest’s unadulterated beauty and natural playground influence recreation trends and goals for the Parks Department.



## COMMUNITY-DRIVEN PLAN

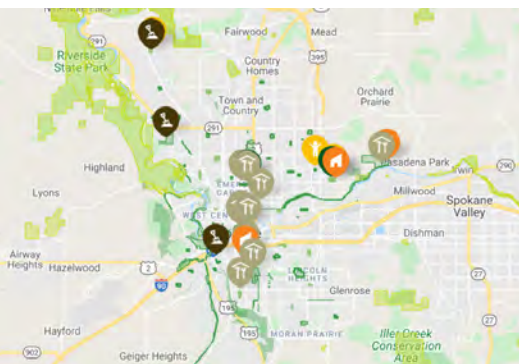
This plan is derived from the goals, desires and feedback obtained over months of outreach and engagement.



One of fourteen pop-up events in the community to obtain input from a diverse range of people.

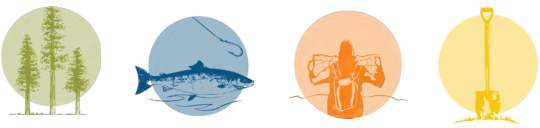


Residents of all ages were engaged to ensure the plan represents the needs of the entire community.



Residents submitted comments and feedback using an online mapping tool.

## THEMES



## LAND

All physical park properties, programming, and facilities that take place on City park lands

- GOAL A. SERVING THE UNDER-RESOURCED
- GOAL B. INLAND NORTHWEST LIVING
- GOAL C. PRESERVE OUR WILD

## WATER

All activities, facilities, and programming in and around natural and manufactured water features including rivers, streams, swimming holes, pools, and splash pads

- GOAL D. SWIM AND SPLASH
- GOAL E. CARE FOR AND ACTIVATE THE SPOKANE RIVER
- GOAL F. IMPROVE WATER USE EFFICIENCY

## PEOPLE

Goals and strategies related to how residents engage with and utilize parklands and programming

- GOAL G. PARKS FOR ALL
- GOAL H. BUILD AWARENESS
- GOAL I. DIVERSITY OF OFFERINGS
- GOAL J. CO-EXISTENCE

## LEGACY

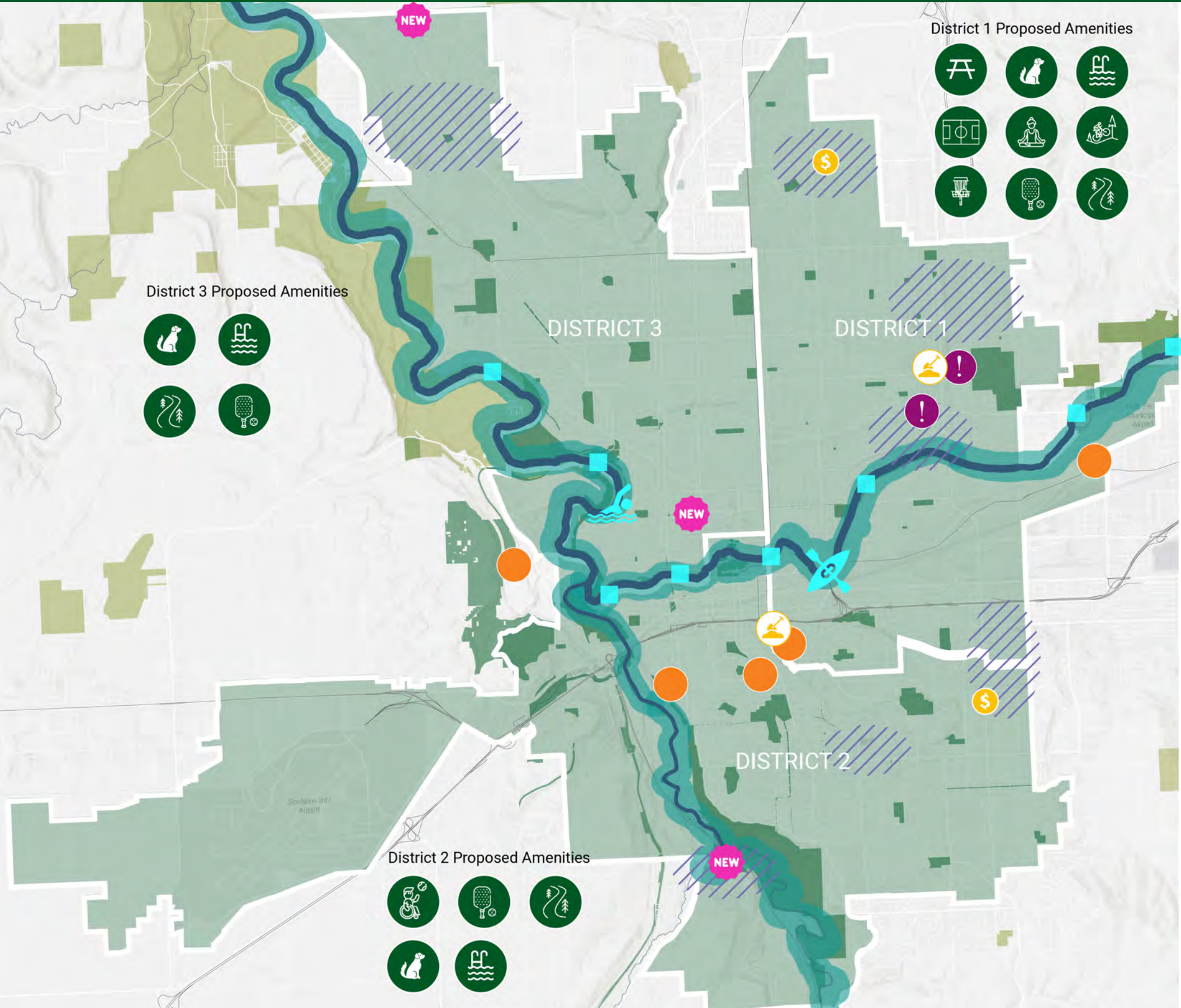
Ensure that all goals and actions contribute to continuing Spokane’s heritage of renowned parks, recreation, and services

- GOAL K. MAINTAIN AND CARE
- GOAL L. FUNDING FUTURES
- GOAL M. STRATEGIC ACQUISITIONS AND REAL ESTATE MANAGEMENT





MAP 1: VISION PLAN



LEGEND

- Spokane Parks and Natural Lands
  - State and County Parks and Natural Lands
  - Spokane City Limits
  - NEW** City-owned Parks to be Developed - Tier I  
\*Skeet-So-Mish Park, Meadowglen Park, Qualchan Hills Park
  - Upgrade Minnehaha and Cowley Parks
  - Acquire Land for New Parks
  - Proposed Water Access Points
  - Existing Water Access Points
  - Riparian Habitat
  - Existing Gaps - Parks Needed
  - Parks Prioritized for Investment - Tier I\*  
\*Wildhorse Park, Courtland Park
  - Parks Prioritized for Investment - Tier II
  - Spokane River
  - Latah Creek
  - Highways
- \*Tier 1 parks are those that are in need of improvement and are located in an Equity Zone. Tier II projects are those that are in need of improvement and not located in an Equity Zone.

Inland Northwest Living: Desired Amenities

- Disc Golf Course
- Dog Park
- Grill and picnic area
- Mountain Bike Park/Pump Track/Skate Park
- Pickleball Court
- Sports equipment/fields (incl. running track)
- Therapeutic Recreation Services
- Trails for hiking and biking (paved and unpaved)
- Water access for kayak, raft, canoe, SUP and swim
- Wellness and Enrichment Programs



# CONCEPT PLANS

## HOW CAN THE OBJECTIVES OF THIS PLAN BE APPLIED TO SPECIFIC PARKS?

### HIGHLIGHT OF CONCEPT PLANS & PROCESS

Within the Parks and Natural Lands Master Plan are three distinct park concept plans for community or neighborhood parks, one in each of Spokane's three districts. Understanding park improvement needs at the neighborhood level, park concept plans were developed with an intent to express a vision for upgrades that can be emblematic of the overall plan. As these concept plans were developed in tandem with overall outreach for the Master Plan, they express feedback heard from the community and provide a representation for how future improvements can be made.

The first concept plan envisions renovating an existing community park in need of significant renovation, the second envisions renovating an existing urban pocket park in partnership with nearby stakeholders and the third envisions developing a new park on existing City land.

**Minnehaha Park:** Located in District 1, Minnehaha Park is a community park with a historic building, tennis courts in disrepair and a small and aging playground. Perhaps most

notable to the site is the several acres of natural land that provide trails, granite outcroppings and views. This concept plan helps the City explore how revisions to older parks can better meet current needs for gathering and recreation in addition to exploring opportunities to enhance natural areas within parks.

**Cowley Park** Cowley Park is a pocket park located in District 2 and adjacent to several medical facilities including the Sacred Heart Children's Hospital. As a currently under-used park, this concept explores how to encourage activity and use by surrounding institutions and encourage coexistence with park users experiencing homelessness.

**Meadowglen Park** Meadowglen Park is currently an undeveloped, vacant parcel owned by the City since 1986. Located in the northernmost edge of District 3, this future community park will improve access to parks and green spaces for residents who cannot currently reach a park within a 10 minute walk. Meadowglen may be a model for new park development to become centers for gathering, all-age activities, and climate resilient design in low density residential neighborhoods.



Minnehaha Park existing condition



Minnehaha Park Concept Plan



Meadowglen Park existing condition



Meadowglen Park Concept Plan



Cowley Park existing condition



Cowley Park Concept Plan





# 1

## INTRODUCTION

- Plan Purpose
- Plan Vision Summary
- Spokane Context
- Spokane's Park System
- Community Profile
- Recreation Trends
- Opportunities & Challenges



# CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION

“

It is well understood, by those who have studied the subject, that public parks, while ostensibly undertaken for the pleasure which their beauty affords the people, are also very important aids to the improvement and preservation of the health of the people.

Source: Report of the Board of Park Commissioners, 1891-1913. John Charles Olmsted, Frederick Law Olmsted Jr.

”

## PLAN PURPOSE

The purpose of this plan is to use technical study and community input to guide future park investment in Spokane’s park system in the most efficient manner possible.

## PRESERVE AND PLAY

The name “Spokane” which means “Children of the Sun” comes from the original inhabitants of the region, the Spokane Tribe of Indians. The Spokane are one of the Interior Salish-speaking tribes and were traditionally a semi-nomadic people who lived along the banks of the Spokane and Columbia Rivers. As regional traders, the Spokane and those from surrounding areas gathered at Spokane Falls to trap, dry and store Coho and Chinook salmon. The river, which sustained generations of indigenous Spokane for several thousand years, is central to the health and well-being of those living in the region today. Many of the



Source: Olmsted Brothers Report, 1913

natural spaces that were fundamental to indigenous life and culture are cared for today by the Spokane Parks and Recreation Department. This commitment to environmental stewardship and conservation remains an important value to the Parks Department and the residents of Spokane.

## WHY THIS PLAN IS NEEDED

### HISTORY

Since the City of Spokane’s incorporation to the United States in 1891 and the City’s first parks master plan in 1913, preservation of the natural beauty and features of Spokane, balanced with a desire for recreation, has continued to be a part of the ethos of the City and a value of its residents. It is with this in mind that the two principles of preserve and play were created to guide the Parks Master Plan. “Preserve” is two pronged and pays homage to both the

City’s original inhabitants as well as the City’s precedent parks plan created by famous landscape architecture firm, Olmsted Brothers. The Spokane Parks and Natural Lands Master Plan seeks to uphold the original intent of the City’s first parks plan (1908) to guide Spokane to be a “model city of modern park planning.”

## COMMUNITY VALUES

Characteristic of both the Olmsted approach as well as Spokane’s original native stewards, this plan draws inspiration from Spokane’s natural setting and sets ambitious goals for safeguarding natural lands. “Play” honors the active lifestyles of those who call this part of the country home, and the joy derived from being in nature. Spokane’s geographic context and unique recreation opportunities create a setting where some local recreation trends differ from both state and national trends.

Reflecting community values and inspired by the ideas contributed by many residents and informed by evaluation of the specialness of this place, this plan describes an aspirational vision that may take over a decade to achieve. Providing direction to fulfill this vision, the plan presents strategies and priorities for action which achieve plan goals. These strategies will be led by the City Parks and Recreation Department and Parks Board with support from other departments and partners which are anticipated to be implemented over the next six years.



Source: Olmsted Brothers Report, 1913



View from Mt. Spokane





PLAN VISION SUMMARY

Spokane Parks and Recreation Department provides important services and facilities to the community that promote livability, protect the natural environment, and provide mental and physical health benefits through access to nature, physical activity and play and community connection. To ensure this legacy continues for generations to come, this plan outlines a framework developed from the analysis in Chapter 2 and community desires with a vision for the entire park system. The framework also incorporates strategic direction from citywide initiatives and other department Master Plans such as the Spokane Downtown Plan, City Strategic Plan and the City’s Comprehensive Plan. It seeks to refine the Parks and Recreation Department’s focus and direction for the next six years, outline strategic recommendations to address gaps within the existing network and identify park programming

partnerships, while taking into consideration successes to date.

Building on the legacy of Spokane’s historic commitment to parks and recreation, starting with its initial parks plan created in 1913 by the renowned Olmsted Brothers firm, Spokane Parks and Recreation is planning for a future that values recreation, access to parks and natural lands, and preserves land, water and wildlife. As local recreation trends evolve and public health concerns take center stage in response to Covid-19, it is important to reevaluate the vision and goals. The plan strategies are organized in four chapters: land, water, people and legacy. Each contain a set of objectives with corresponding strategies. Note that themes and objectives are not listed in any particular order.

The plan was developed using an equity lens to ensure resources and programming are available to residents regardless of where they live.

Plan Vision Statement

Spokane is a visionary city, founded with an environmental ethic and appreciation of the river and natural landscape at its heart. We have a commitment to build a community legacy through green space and parks. We focus on creating prosperity with equitable park development and recreation opportunities that uplift all people.

HOW THIS DOCUMENT IS ORGANIZED

This document is organized into seven chapters with an introduction, analysis and four chapters of plan recommendations, organized by theme. The seventh chapter includes an implementation plan for action.

CHAPTER 1 - INTRODUCTION

Chapter 1 describes the community of Spokane, including a demographic profile and summary of local, state and national recreation trends. The chapter concludes with a discussion of opportunities and challenges.

CHAPTER 2 - ANALYSIS

Chapter 2 provides several sets of analyses centered upon key questions asked throughout the planning process. The questions cumulatively help to strategize recommendations that address equity in Spokane’s park system.

CHAPTERS 3-6 - PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

Chapter themes are described at right.

CHAPTER 7 - IMPLEMENTATION

The plan concludes with action and vision plans to direct future investments for the City of Spokane.

PLAN THEMES



LAND - CHAPTER 3

The theme of land includes all physical park properties, programming, and facilities that take place on city park lands. Within the land theme are four goals and supporting strategies.

WATER - CHAPTER 4

The theme of water includes activities, facilities, and programming in and around natural and manufactured water features including rivers, streams, swimming holes, pools, and splash pads.

PEOPLE - CHAPTER 5

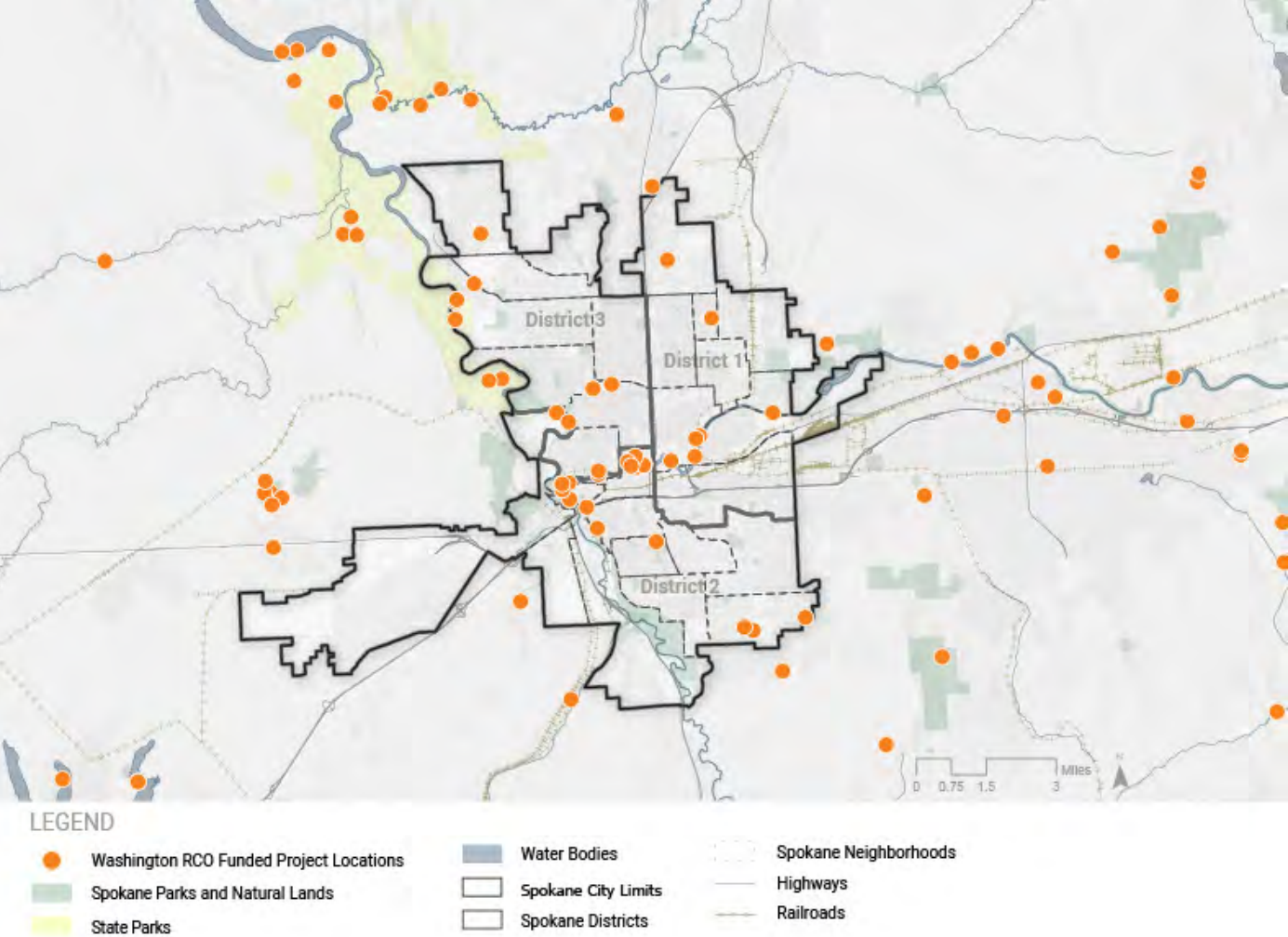
The theme of people includes goals and strategies related to how residents engage with and utilize parklands and programming.

LEGACY - CHAPTER 6

The theme of legacy ensures that all goals and actions contribute to continuing Spokane’s heritage of renowned parks, recreation, and services.



MAP 2: PREVIOUS RCO GRANT FUNDED PROJECT LOCATIONS



Source: Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office 2021

SPOKANE PARK BOARD MISSION

Formed upon the City’s inception, the City of Spokane’s 11 member Park Board oversees the Parks and Recreation Department and allocates eight percent of the City’s budget for parks and recreation purposes. Under the Parks Board purview, the Parks and Recreation Department, “acquires, operates, enhances, and protects a diverse system of parks, boulevards, parkways, urban forest, golf courses, recreational, cultural, historical and open space areas for the enjoyment and enrichment of all.” The Park

Board has the authority to determine the management, control and use of all park spaces owned by the City of Spokane.

Note: The park board is a volunteer board appointed by the City administration and is separate from the City’s elected officials.

STATE REQUIREMENTS

Through the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO), the State of Washington offers a valuable resource to local municipalities for grants related to wildlife, land and water conservation, boating facilities,

non-highway and off-road vehicle activities and recreation programs. The purpose of the RCO grants is to create outdoor opportunities, protect habitat and working lands and to protect threatened species. RCO funded projects in the region from 1964 to 2021 are shown in Map 2. For municipal agencies to qualify to receive grant funding for eligible activities, RCO requires a parks system master plan to be adopted within six years. In addition to providing strategic department direction, this Parks and Natural Lands Master Plan fulfills this requirement. Per the Washington State RCO, the following plan elements are required and are found in this document:

- » Goals and objectives
- » An inventory of current facilities and/or properties
- » Public involvement in the process
- » A demand and need analysis
- » A capital improvement program
- » Adoption by the organization’s board or council

This plan will assist the Parks Department in guiding the prioritization of future grant requests. As grant evaluators often require information that is contained in park system plans, this document lays a valuable foundation and strategically poises the agency for future grant applications.

HOW THE PLAN WAS CREATED

To capture an understanding of the broadness of citizen needs and prompt suggestions of ideas and partnership opportunities, an extensive community engagement process began in April 2021 and ran through the refinement stages of



The SkyRide at Riverfront Park




this plan in April 2022 as outlined in Figure 1 on the following page. Thousands of Spokane residents and organization stakeholders provided feedback in community workshops, focus groups, pop-up events and through an online interactive mapping tool. See Appendix C for a summary of the engagement process and findings.

To supplement community engagement efforts, the planning process was grounded in a community profile and recreation trends report to understand the demographic factors and sports and leisure activities that contribute to Spokane’s unique culture. With a focus on equity and inclusion, this plan identifies park and programming gaps as well as areas of disinvestment and places that are in poor condition to understand where to prioritize future efforts. Residents were asked to provide their opinion of ‘equitable park development.’

This plan establishes three park concept plans to model how public input for the park system can be realized in community and neighborhood park designs. These concept plans were established with the input of community stewards, youth, neighborhood representatives and partners.



Figure 1: The Planning Process

Date	Action	Outcome
WINTER/SPRING 2021	<div><div><b>Inventory and Analysis</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Focus groups and stakeholder interviews</li><li>• Review of existing resources and programs</li><li>• Benchmarking comparable communities</li><li>• Park condition analysis</li><li>• Equity analysis</li></ul></div></div>	Foundational understanding of existing park system
SUMMER 2021	<div><div><b>Creating a Needs Assessment</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Community surveys and pop-up events to understand residents' perspectives on values, current park use, recreational needs and opportunities for improvement</li><li>• Community feedback on inventory &amp; analysis</li></ul></div></div>	Draft themes, goals and objectives
FALL 2021	<div><div><b>Community and Neighborhood Workshops</b></div></div>	Plan strategies and action items
WINTER/SPRING 2022	<div><div><b>Create draft plan with action steps for implementation over next 10 years</b></div></div>	Celebrate and share draft plan with community for adoption

2010 ROAD MAP TO THE FUTURE

The most recent Spokane Parks and Recreation master plan identified the need for a dedicated parks funding source in the form of a parkland dedication ordinance to pay for growth and called for partnerships to enhance the quantity and quality of collaboration. Those recommendations have yet to be accomplished and are still relevant today.

SPOKANE’S PARK LEGACY

The City of Spokane became an incorporated city in 1891; a decade later the newly instated Park Board, determined to make Spokane into a model of modern park planning, commissioned a study by the famous Olmsted Brothers. After Portland and Seattle, Olmsted prepared a plan for Spokane’s park system in 1908. It takes advantage of the scenic Spokane River and Latah Creek, laying out parkways and scattering parks throughout neighborhoods. The plan included advice for the city’s ten existing parks and recommendations to expand their 223 acre park system to 1,150 acres to provide an adequate proportion of park space to inhabitants. He designed park concepts for Adams (today’s Cannon Hill), Liberty, and Corbin Parks. This precedent plan established Spokane’s diverse array of park classifications, with proposals for four large parks, five smaller parks, 11 play fields, numerous parkways and boulevards and steep wildlands for connections to the river gorge. Remnants of these foundational parks exist today, many of which still provide their imagined purpose.

Many of the tools used by the Olmsted Brothers to inform Spokane’s original park system plan are still considered best practices today and have been integrated into this planning effort. Among these tools are comparative community benchmarking level of service and park provision calculations.

EXPANSION OF THE ARTS, AQUATICS AND CENTERS

Subsequent park planning efforts have built upon the original Olmsted plan and provided key recommendations for expansion and improvements, adding facilities such as outdoor swimming pools, senior and youth centers, arts and culture facilities, outdoor sports complexes, and an indoor sports complex (The Podium). Most recently, the 2010 Spokane Parks and Recreation “Road map to the Future” identified the need for a dedicated parks funding source in the form of a parkland dedication ordinance to pay for growth and called for partnerships to enhance the quantity and quality of collaboration. The 2010 recommendations have yet to be accomplished and are still relevant today.

COMMITMENT TO WELCOMENESS AND INCLUSIVITY

Recent planning efforts within the City of Spokane’s Planning Department and other departments or entities relevant for this plan include the 2017 Shaping Spokane Comprehensive Plan (City of Spokane Planning), the 2020 Spokane Downtown Plan (City of Spokane Planning), the Spokane Climate Action Strategy (Coalition of a group of City Council-appointed volunteer community members), the Spokane County 2020 Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan and the 2020 to 2025 5-Year Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness (City and County of Spokane). Themes of creating inclusive and welcoming environments in public spaces unite these planning efforts. Overall, 32 previous or concurrent plans were reviewed for incorporation, reference, and coordination with this plan.



# COMMUNITY INPUT SUMMARY

## ONLINE COMMUNITY SURVEY



A community survey obtained feedback from Spokane residents regarding the use of and preferences for parks and natural lands in the community. The survey, which was distributed as both a statistically valid and open participation survey, was available in English, Arabic, Chinese, Marshallese, Russian, Spanish, and Vietnamese.

### Statistically Valid Survey: 329 Participants | 8% Response Rate

A representative sample of 4,000 randomly selected residential addresses were mailed invitations to complete an online survey. Of the 4,000 households, 329 completed the survey, providing a response rate of 8 percent, which is in the typical range (5-15 percent) for this type of survey.

### Open Participation Survey: 3,297 Participants

This survey was open to all residents. The questions were the same as the statistically valid survey (SV), however, anyone could respond. Outreach efforts were very successful; 3,297 people responded. Open participation survey respondents were more likely than SV survey respondents to be active users of the park system. They were more likely to own their own home, live in a single-family home, and be age 35 or older. Through the park ambassador outreach there was also engagement with people experiencing homelessness.

#### Key Takeaways

With broad representation from the community, the values and subsequent plan themes of land, water, people and legacy were developed. The surveys were representative of both the largest and most broad swath of feedback and as such, formed the basis for the plan recommendations.

“This plan should be driven by the community.”

- Director Garrett Jones

## STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

### Park Board

5 meetings | 11 participants

The Park Board served in an advisory role during the process, providing input and helping to guide recommendations and priorities, reviewing deliverables at key milestones, and spreading the word to help get the community involved. Twelve out of the fourteen board members have lived in Spokane for 10 years or longer.

#### Key Takeaways

The Park Board emphasized the need to shift the focus from large investments focused on individual properties to spreading funds throughout the system to bring all parks into a state of good repair. They also emphasized the need for policies and data to evaluate requests to change park uses and add to the park system.

### Focus Groups

7 groups | 111 participants

Conversations with individual stakeholders helped to gain a detailed understanding of the history, current conditions, and future plans for the park system. Conversations were centered on the following topics.

- Growth and future development
- Natural lands, ecology, greenways
- Outdoor recreation
- Sports and active recreation
- Program needs, gaps and opportunities
- Public service and advocacy
- Neighborhood parks

#### Key Takeaways

Initial findings for the plan were informed through stakeholder meetings. Feedback

ranged from a desire to prioritize maintenance of existing parklands before expanding the system to directing a focus for enhancements in District 1.

### Project Advisory Committee

4 meetings | 11 participants

The Advisory Committee consisted of twelve members representing various Spokane special interests including the Park Board, Mayor’s office, City Council, Parks Department, City staff, and public schools.

#### Key Takeaways

The project advisory committee was influential in guiding the direction of the plan’s focus with an emphasis on equity, legacy and ensuring robust public representation.



# TARGETED OUTREACH

## Pop-Up Events

14 events | 257 participants



Community members provide input on the parks and natural lands at pop-up events throughout the summer of 2021.

Pop-Up Surveys enabled the team to reach communities that may not be typically inclined to participate in citywide community workshops or traditional surveys. Fourteen pop-up events were timed in conjunction with otherwise planned happenings, such as minor league baseball games, farmers markets and at outdoor swimming pools and parks.

### Key Takeaways

Respondents at pop-up events indicated that improving daily maintenance and management as well as renovating and enhancing existing parks were the top two priorities for the next five years. Ensuring that parks feel welcoming and safe and that they're accessible for all ages and abilities were important outcomes to improving park equity.

## Plan Ambassadors

14 participants

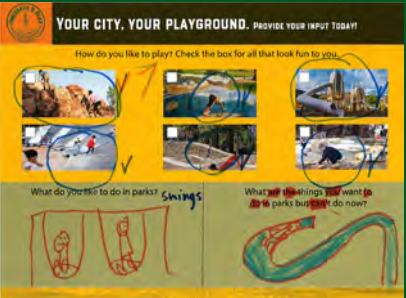
Ambassadors are leaders of the community who represent key interest groups that utilize the Spokane Park system. Ambassadors played a fundamental role in outreach for the plan by acting as a more personalized voice of the Parks Department to deliver messages at key plan milestones, such as advertising engagement opportunities. This group represents a diverse cross section of the Spokane community, representing various groups from neighborhood councils to those experiencing homelessness.

### Key Takeaways

There are times when planning project teams are not able to reach certain demographics due to perceptions of trust, or time or communication barriers. Spokane Park Ambassadors were able to reach some demographic segments that are often missed, such as unhoused and non-English speaking residents.

## Minnehaha Park Youth Engagement

1 event | 200 participants



Students in grades K-6 were asked for their feedback on the future of Minnehaha Park. The students were shown a series of photographs depicting different types of play and voted for their preference.

### Key Takeaways

A high preference was made for traditional playgrounds with swings and slides, climbing on big rocks, trees, climbing walls and other equipment, and bicycle facilities including a BMX track.

Input from first graders about how they like to play in parks.

# NEIGHBORHOOD WORKSHOPS

To advance the concept plans for three individual park sites, virtual workshops were conducted with residents who live near Minnehaha and Meadowglen Parks as well as key stakeholders surrounding Cowley Park. Workshops utilized visual preference surveys and sketched program studies to gauge resident preferences for the future design of the park spaces.

## Minnehaha Park

10 public meeting participants (plus see youth engagement)

Minnehaha is a community park which has planned renovations and upgrades to address degraded facilities and to increase diversity and interest in park spaces in District 1. Participants in the public meeting were adults who mostly live or work near Minnehaha Park. A separate youth engagement was conducted to understand preference.

### Key Takeaways

Priorities for upgrades include an upgraded playground followed by a splash or spray pad and adventure play. It should be noted that responses from adults differ slightly from those of the elementary-aged students who were asked similar questions (summarized above in "youth outreach"); students expressed more interest in adventure play such as climbing and bicycling /scooting/ roller blading.

## Meadowglen Park

14 participants

Meadowglen is a new community park to be built in District 3 over the planning horizon of this plan. The Meadowglen Neighborhood Council co-hosted the workshop; participants were adults who live near the future Meadowglen Park.

### Key Takeaways

Residents expressed a desire for shaded lawn areas, sport courts, ADA walking trails, and traditional playgrounds.

## Cowley Park

7 SHC Hospital Representatives

Cowley Park is a pocket park located adjacent to several medical facilities. The primary park users are therefore hospital staff and those visiting hospital patients and also tends to be a location our residents experiencing homelessness find they are not bothered. The neighborhood workshop consisted of a facilitate discussion between Sacred Heart Children's Hospital and City of Spokane staff with a goal of aligning shared values for he future design and activation of the park space.

### Key Takeaways

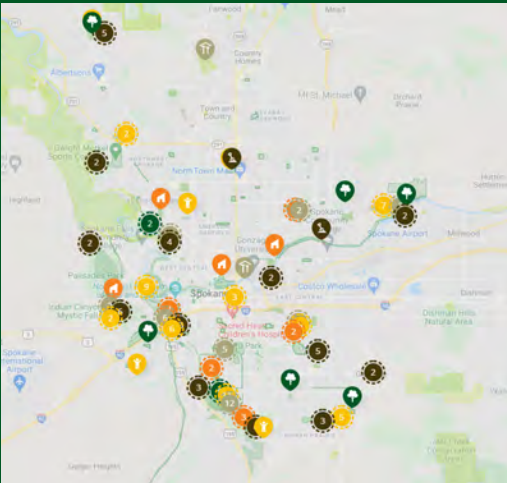
Stakeholder feedback suggested a desire to make the park more inviting and walkable, with looped pathways and places to sit or eat and lawn areas for play and relaxation. With its adjacency to medical facilities, Cowley Park provides therapeutic value for both patients and visitors; ADA accessibility is essential throughout the park and at the street level. The park space has historic and cultural significance for Spokane's Indigenous community, and features a watercourse that is still used today for harvesting water cress and other native plants.



PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Online Map Activity  
250 participants

An interactive online engagement tool, Social Pinpoint, was used for the first time by Spokane Parks and Recreation on this project. The program was very well received, resulting in nearly one thousand public comments that fall under one of five categories: maintenance, recreation, new places, structures, and nature.



Key Takeaways

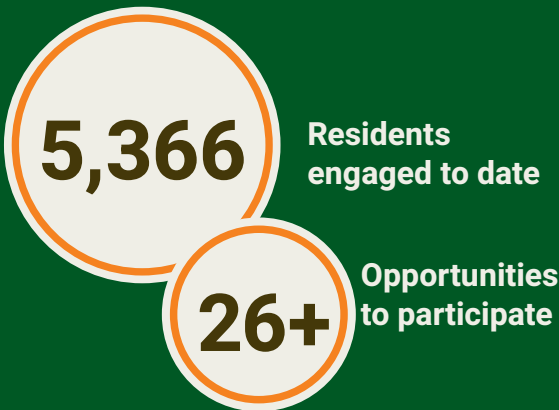
An overwhelming number of comments were highly complementary of the parks system and many focused on trails, access, courts, and parking.

Virtual Community Workshop  
1 workshop | 50 participants

The community workshop was advertised through a public notice, flyers, social media advertisements and an email campaign with the plan ambassadors.” The workshop presentation provided information on community demographics, an overview of feedback received from the community survey and a description of recreation trends and Spokane’s parks and natural lands system. Polling software was used to understand participant’s level of support for the plan vision statement and the draft plan themes, goals and strategies.

Key Takeaways

Participants voiced support for the plan vision statement and most enthusiasm for the plan goals of “Serving the Under-Resourced,” “Preserve our Wild,” and “Maintain and Care.” These feedback expresses an appreciation of existing park spaces and prioritizing system expansion that serves those most in need. When asked which strategies would most improve a sense of belonging in park spaces, participants identified designing inclusive and accessible spaces through co-creation and co-design and employing universal design principles to ensure accessibility for all abilities to be the most preferred tactics.



Acknowledged Gaps in Engagement

- » Casual park users
- » College students
- » Indigenous population

Final Outreach Complete

During the spring of 2022, the city advertised public review of the plan through public notices, social media, and pop-up events, as well as posted a plan video for virtual viewing.



A young Spokaneite shreds at the skate & wheels park at Riverfront Park





Walking the dog in Manito Park.

SPOKANE CONTEXT

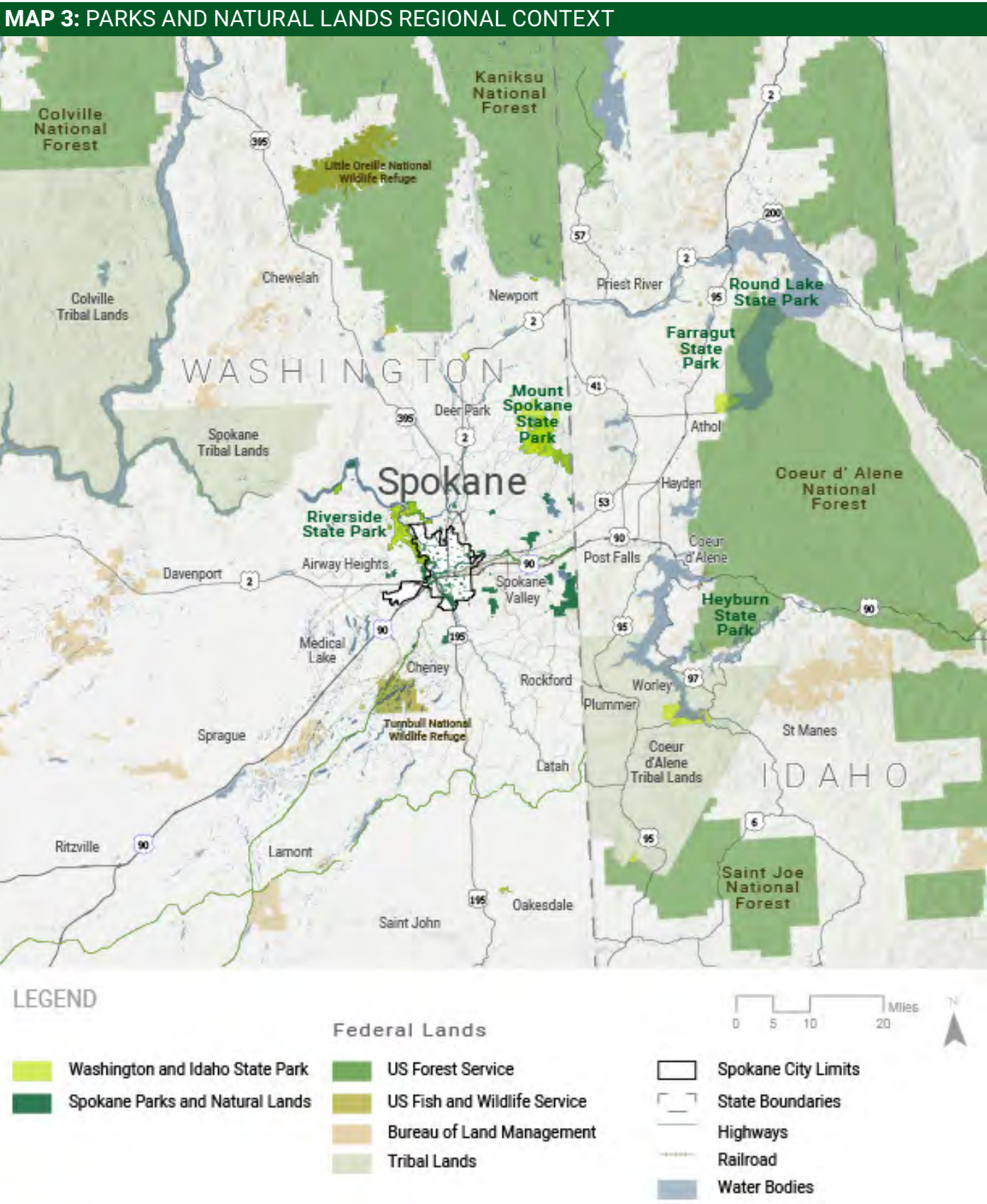
Located in eastern Washington and the heart of the inland northwest, the City of Spokane is the second-most populous in the state and home to more than 220,000 people. A four-season city with access to 12 conservation areas within 10 miles of downtown and more than 75 lakes within an hour’s drive, the city’s former motto of “Near Nature, Near Perfect,” is telling.

Washington State has long been known for its abundant outdoors scene. In fact, Washington’s 124 state parks, includes islands, forests, mountains, and other geographic features, attracting more than 40 million annual visitors and making the state a prime destination for many outdoors enthusiasts. The Outdoor Industry Association report showed that in 2019, outdoor recreation in Washington generated over \$12.3 billion, which accounts for two percent of the state’s gross domestic product (GDP). This made Washington’s outdoor recreation industry the eighth largest in the country. In 2019, outdoor recreation provided more than 130,000 jobs

in the state of Washington, which is about 2.8 percent of the state’s employment.

THE INLAND NORTHWEST

Greater Spokane is the center of the Inland Northwest, a region of the American Northwest encompassing Eastern Washington and Northern Idaho. Bounded by the Cascade Mountains on the west and the Rocky Mountains on the east, the region enjoys plenty of pristine wilderness and small-town spirit. Outdoor recreation is arguably one of the highlights that brings people to eastern Washington. The diverse and refreshing landscapes of the region contribute to a high quality of life and are a good reason why many visit or choose to live here. Map 3 shows that State Parks and parks and natural lands managed by other entities in the region contribute to a wealth of green space and recreation opportunities. The City of Spokane, the most populated area in the region, has the potential to not only serve as the region’s recreation center point but also to offer a high quality of life to its residents.



Source: City of Spokane GIS data 2021, Washington State Open Data, State of Idaho GIS Data 2020, BLM, DoD, USFS, USFWS, NPS, PADUS 2.1. Rasterized by Esri from features July 2021. Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Branch of Geospatial Support (BOGS) New Land Area Representation GIS dataset 2018



# SPOKANE'S PARK SYSTEM

## PARK CLASSIFICATION

The City of Spokane's Parks and Natural Lands system is comprised of 105 properties constituting approximately 3,800 acres (Table 1). The system is classified into eight distinct park types, based on characteristics of the park such as size, amenities offered, purpose for use, access and length of stay. Map 4 on the following page displays the distribution of these properties, and Table 2 provides a description of each type. Neighborhood parks, which range from four to 15 acres in size, are the most common park type found in Spokane, followed by parkways and natural land properties. Natural lands provide the most publicly accessible park acres and encompass almost half of the total park system with over 1,600 acres.

Table 1: City of Spokane Park Classifications and Number

CLASSIFICATION	NUMBER	ACREAGE
Special Use Park	6	248
Community Park	12	297
Natural Lands	17	1,643
Golf Course	4	690
Regional Park	3	474
Neighborhood Park	32	274
Pocket Park	13	14
Parkway	18	196
<b>Total</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>3,836</b>

Source: City of Spokane GIS data 2021

## TIME LINE OF PREVIOUS INVESTMENTS

The Parks Department has been successful in passing three voter approved bond initiatives over the past 20 years (Figure 3). Each bond has been associated with a package of specific park improvements:

Capital investments from bond initiatives have totaled \$133.6 million between 1999 and 2020. These bond initiatives have allowed the Parks Department to execute major improvements to the system that expands and improves recreation offerings. These bonds have contributed to caring for and improving many of the park system's larger signature parks, such as Riverfront and Manito, and improve the overall image of the city. It is apparent that Spokane residents value these large special use parks and appreciate recent investments made in them.

### 1999 – 2004

\$11.2 M (2.63% of overall)

**Park Maintenance, Infrastructure and Expansion Bond:** Funded the renovation of several existing parks and playgrounds as well as the construction of new neighborhood and community parks and facilities such as a skate park and picnic shelters.

### 2007 – 2011

\$16.1M (2.42% of overall)

**Pool & Splash Pad Bond:** Funded the construction of one new pool and 12 splash pads and renovated five existing outdoor pools.

### 2014 – 2020

\$20.2M (2.32% of overall)

**Riverfront Park Redevelopment Bond:** Funded the major renovation of signature downtown park to include a new ice ribbon, redevelop the north bank into a regional all-ages and abilities playground and sports courts, renovated parking facilities and U.S. Pavilion, develop pedestrian promenades, and construct a new building to host the park's historic Looff Carousel.

Figure 2: Timeline of Previous Investments

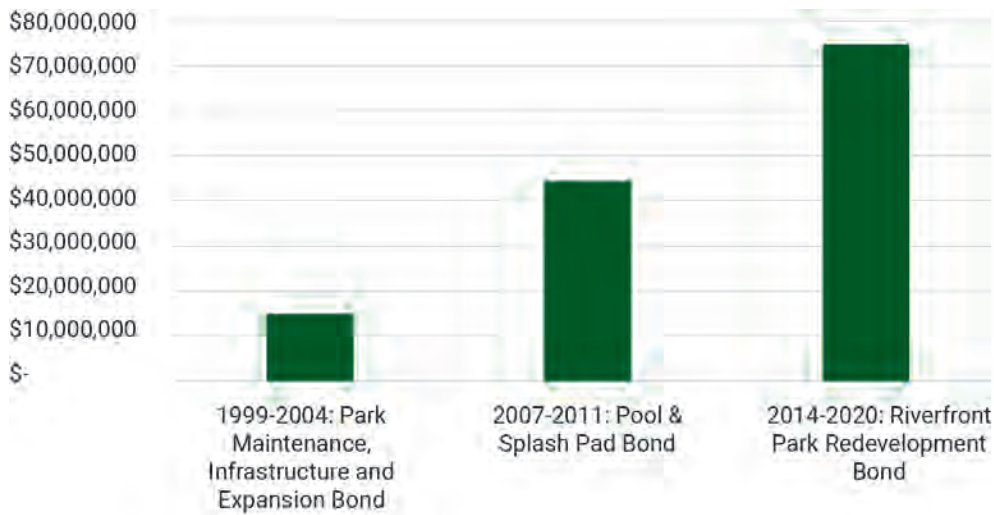


Figure 3: History of Park Bonds: 1999 - 2020. Source: City of Spokane.

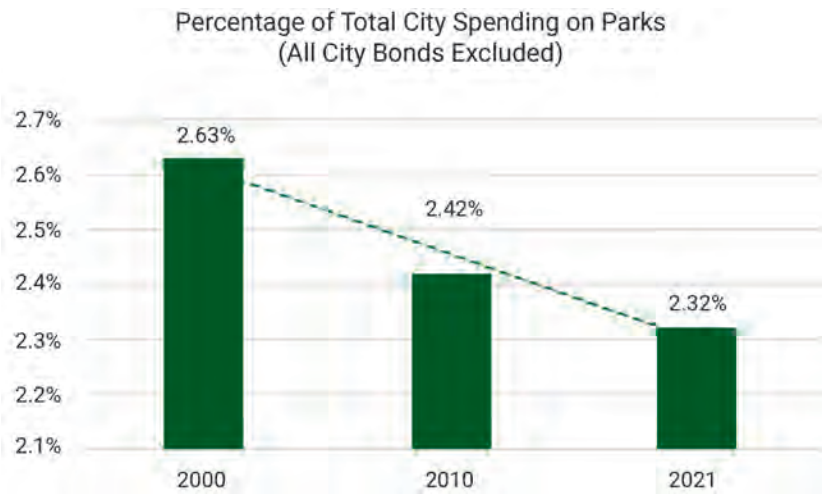
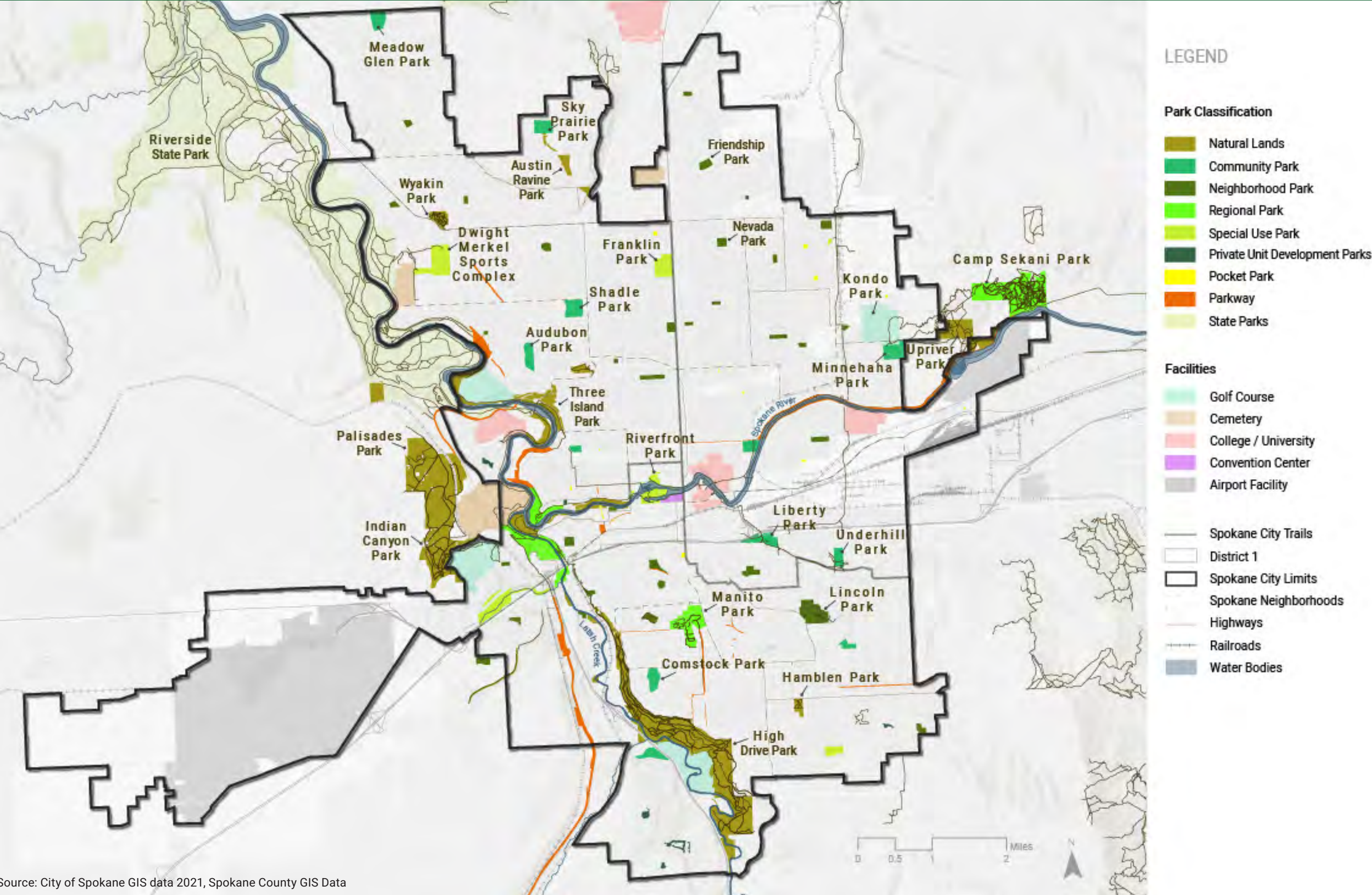


Figure 4: History of City Spending on Parks: 2000 - 2021. Source: City of Spokane.







MAP 4: SPOKANE EXISTING PARKS AND NATURAL LANDS


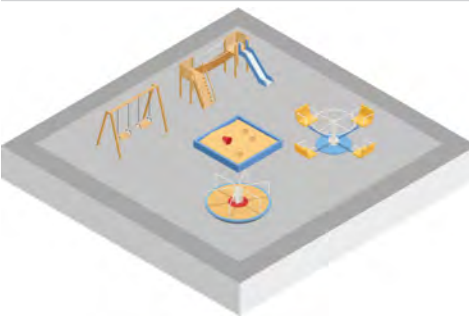




Source: City of Spokane GIS data 2021, Spokane County GIS Data



Table 2: Spokane Park Classification

TYPE OF PARK	DESCRIPTION	SPOKANE
	<b>COMMUNITY PARKS</b> offer diverse recreational opportunities depending on site suitability and community need. These parks may include areas suited for facilities such as athletic complexes and large swimming pools, natural features (such as bodies of water), and support walking, viewing, picnicking, and outdoor recreation. These parks are centrally located in neighborhoods with safe walking and bicycle access and are adjacent to a school when possible. They are medium-sized, 10-50 acres, and contain 6-15 amenities.	12 Properties 297 Acres <div></div> Examples include: Minnehaha Park and Liberty Park
	<b>GOLF COURSES</b> are large expanses of turf grass, trees, and small water features that are maintained for the game of golf. Golf courses may include trails or trail access within non-playable portions of the property so long as golf activity remains unencumbered by trail access. Note that golf courses were not included in the service area analysis below. They are generally between 140 and 250 acres.	4 Properties 690 Acres <div></div> Examples include: Downriver golf course and Indian Canyon golf course
	<b>NATURAL LANDS</b> function to protect environmentally sensitive features such as steep slopes, unstable soils, and riverfront areas that may restrict land use. Generally maintained in a natural state, the facilities preserve significant views and provide wildlife sanctuary. They are more than 25 acres and contain few amenities, though they may support outdoor and nature-oriented recreational activities for both city residents and tourists. Within conservation lands, which can be found on natural lands, public access for recreational use within conservation land is often limited.	17 Properties 1,643 Acres <div></div> Examples include: Indian Canyon Park and High Drive Park
	<b>NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS</b> are intended to provide both active and passive recreation for residents enjoying short daily leisure periods but should provide for most intensive use by children, family groups, and senior citizens. These parks are centrally located in neighborhoods with safe walking and bicycle access. They are medium-sized, between 4-15 acres, and contain 3-7 amenities.	32 Properties 274 Acres <div></div> Examples include: Lincoln Park and Corbin Park

TYPE OF PARK	DESCRIPTION	SPOKANE
	<b>PARKWAYS</b> are landscaped areas of distinct quality within or adjacent to the public right of way which connect larger park spaces or which are specially fitted for pleasure walking or driving. Parkway may have direct access from a major park with connectivity to adjacent parks and open spaces. Parkway are ideally accessible from a community corridor.	18 Properties 196 Acres <div></div> Examples include: Upriver Drive Parkway
	<b>POCKET PARKS</b> are specialized facilities that are centrally located within neighborhoods, along collector streets, along trail or drainage corridors, or in urban centers. Pocket parks serve a concentrated or limited population or specific group such as children or seniors and could be provided by the public or private sector. They are small, often 2 acres or less, and contain few amenities.	13 Properties 14 Acres <div></div> Examples include: Cowley Park, Ruth Park and Kehoe Park
	<b>REGIONAL PARKS</b> are a large expanse of open land (more than 80 acres) designed to provide natural scenery and unique features of citywide and regional interest as well as afford a pleasant environment and open space in which to engage in active and passive recreation. They provide outdoor and nature-oriented recreational activities for residents and tourists.	3 Properties 407 Acres <div></div> Examples include: Camp Sekani Park and High Bridge Park
	<b>SPECIAL USE PARKS</b> might include horticultural centers, working farms, arboretums, aquatic centers, sports complexes, parkways, environmental education centers, performance areas, urban plazas, civic parks, skateboard parks, motor-cross tracks, mountain bike parks, or other specialized activity or recreation interests. Location of special use properties must be carefully planned to ensure that access, traffic control, and lighting and noise issues do not negatively impact neighborhoods. They are often medium-size, 4-15 acres.	6 Properties 248 Acres <div></div> Examples include: Finch Arboretum and Riverfront Park



National Geographic aptly named Riverfront Park one of America's best urban parks in 2020.



Riverfront Park



Manito Park

**SPOKANE’S PARKS AND NATURAL LANDS SYSTEM**

Perhaps the most beloved of Spokane’s park system is its natural lands. At 1,600 acres, Spokane’s natural lands preserve significant views, provide wildlife sanctuaries, and supports opportunities for passive recreation through trails, interpretive facilities, historic and cultural exhibits, nature observation, photography, orienteering, kayaking, canoeing, floating and fishing. While Spokane’s natural lands are a highlight of the parks system, there are far fewer than comparable cities in the Northwest. The largest of Spokane’s natural lands properties is High Drive Park, which offers almost 500 acres of contiguous ponderosa pine habitat and a 20-mile trail network. This park is supported by one of Spokane’s prized “Friends of” volunteer groups, the “Friends of the Bluff.” Throughout the community, the desire to both use and protect natural lands for the purpose of providing connections to the outdoors as well as habitat preservation and environmental



Liberty Park postcard, circa 1910. Source: Historic Spokane

protection is a key component of the Preserve and Play Master Plan.

**SPOKANE’S SIGNATURE PARKS**

Spokane is a city known as much for its historic Manito Park and recently renovated Riverfront Park, colloquially referred to as the “jewel of the city,” as it is by the natural landscapes that surround it. A special use park that was renovated from an industrial railyard along the Spokane River for the 1974 World Fair, \$84 million in renovations within the past five years have brought Riverfront Park and Spokane within the national spotlight. In fact, National

Geographic aptly named Riverfront Park one of America’s best urban parks in 2020. The park boasts views of the Spokane River cascading over basalt rock and the largest urban waterfall in the country. The scenery can be enjoyed from walkways and a gondola, and the park hosts a variety of amenities including an all ages and abilities playground, an outdoor skate ribbon, a historic carousel and community event space. Rich signage, art and interpretation plays homage to Spokane’s ancestral history and environmental setting. Riverfront Park sets an important precedent for how a Spokane park can not only provide residents a space for recreational and leisure opportunities but also elevate the community’s posture in how it addresses inclusion and reflects the culture of its past and present.



COMMUNITY PROFILE

In support of Spokane’s diverse community profile, the Parks Department has an opportunity to provide spaces and programs for all ages and abilities, to consider tactics to ease barriers to entry such as providing no and low-cost programming, to design spaces with an intent to reflect the community culture and identity and to craft programs that appeal to age groups differently within specific areas of the City. The following demographic profiles reflect prominent populations within Spokane that parks could support.

**One third of households have one or more person living with a disability**  
Approximately 30 percent of households have one or more persons living with a disability, and 26 percent of households have one or more persons over the age of 65. Table 3 provides a comparison of these numbers between the City of Spokane and the State of Washington.

More “at risk” households compared to state; concentrated in District 1

The ESRI criteria used to determine “at risk” populations include examining households living below poverty, those receiving Food Stamps/SNAP benefits, households with one or more people living with a disability, non-English speakers, and those without access to a vehicle. These factors are relevant for this planning project in that they can indicate areas within the City with a concentration of those who may face economic, social or physical barriers to access the park system and its services. Overlaying this socioeconomic information with data related to the availability and quality of parks, open space, and recreation offerings can portray critical gaps in the system.

Spokane’s at-risk population is relatively higher compared to the statewide level. Besides having a lower percentage of its population that does not speak English, the City has higher percentages of its population represented in all other at-risk criteria.

Table 3: Households with members under 18, over 65 and living with a disability

HOUSEHOLDS							
	Total (2010)	Total (2020)	% Change between 2010 and 2020	Average Size (2020)	Households with one or more person under 18 years	Households with one or more person over 65	Households with one or more persons with disability
Spokane City	87,607	96,789	10.48%	2.32	29.2%	26.1%	29.9%
Washington State	2,620,076	3,002,804	14.6%	2.53	30.8%	27.0%	25.4%

Source: ESRI, Business Analyst 2020

37

Median Age



18% of the population is under 14 years old

65+

Fastest growing population

PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLDS WITH ONE OR MORE PERSONS WITH DISABILITY

Spokane:

30%

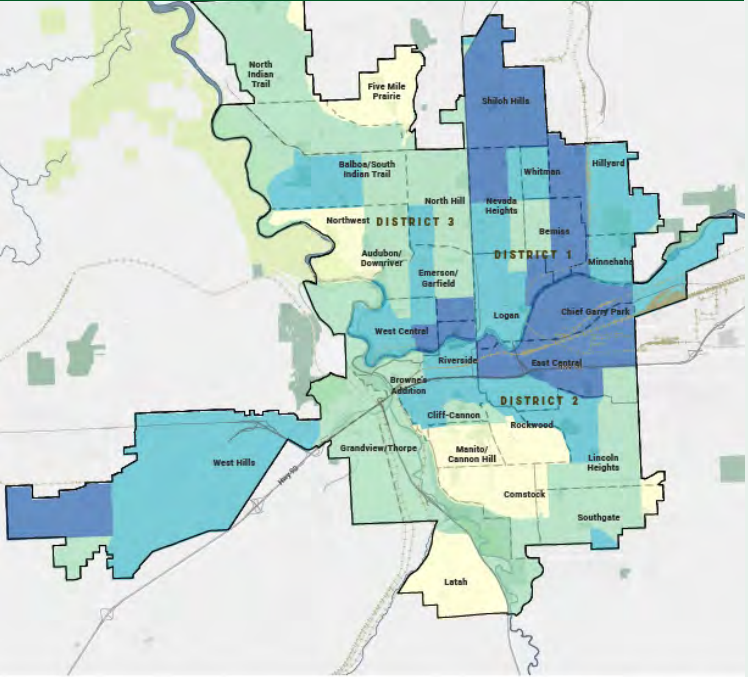
Washington State:

25%



The percentage of households in Spokane that receive SNAP benefits is **nearly double** that of the state.

MAP 5: CDC SOCIAL VULNERABILITY INDEX



LEGEND

- CDC Social Vulnerability Index**

By Census Tracts

  - 0 - 0.25
  - 0.25 - 0.5
  - 0.5 - 0.76
  - 0.75 - 1
- Spokane Parks and Natural Lands
  - State Parks
  - Spokane City Limits
  - Spokane Districts
  - Spokane Neighborhoods
- Highways
  - Railroads
  - Water Bodies

CONCENTRATION OF “AT-RISK” HOUSEHOLDS IN DISTRICT 1

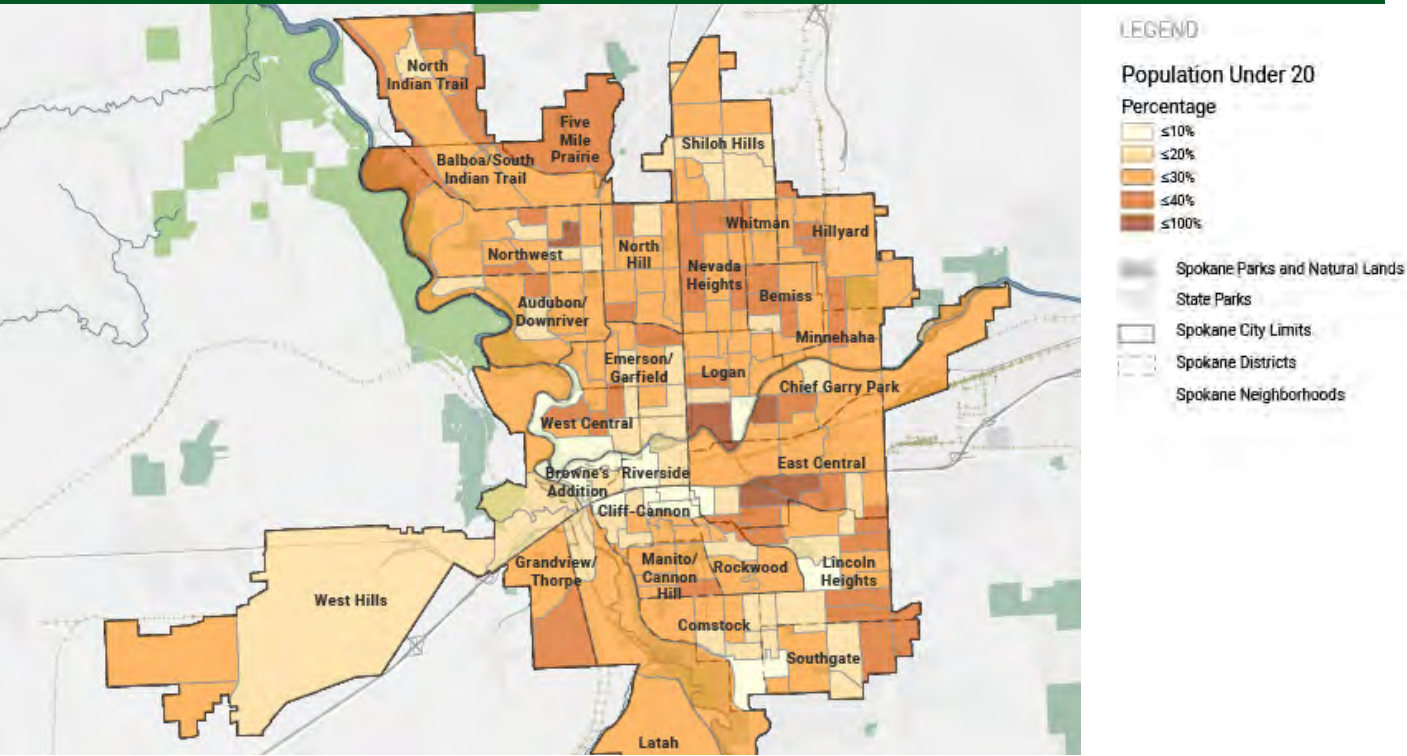
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) indicates four themes of 15 factors to measure social vulnerability including access to a vehicle and income level. Five criteria are highlighted below, comparing the percentage of households in Spokane to Washington State.

Household Below the Poverty Level	17% vs. 11%
Households Receiving SNAP	22% vs. 13%
Households with 1+ Persons with a Disability	30% vs. 25%
Population that Speaks Only a Language other than English	.22% vs. 1%
Owner Households with no Vehicles	2% vs. 1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 American Community Survey

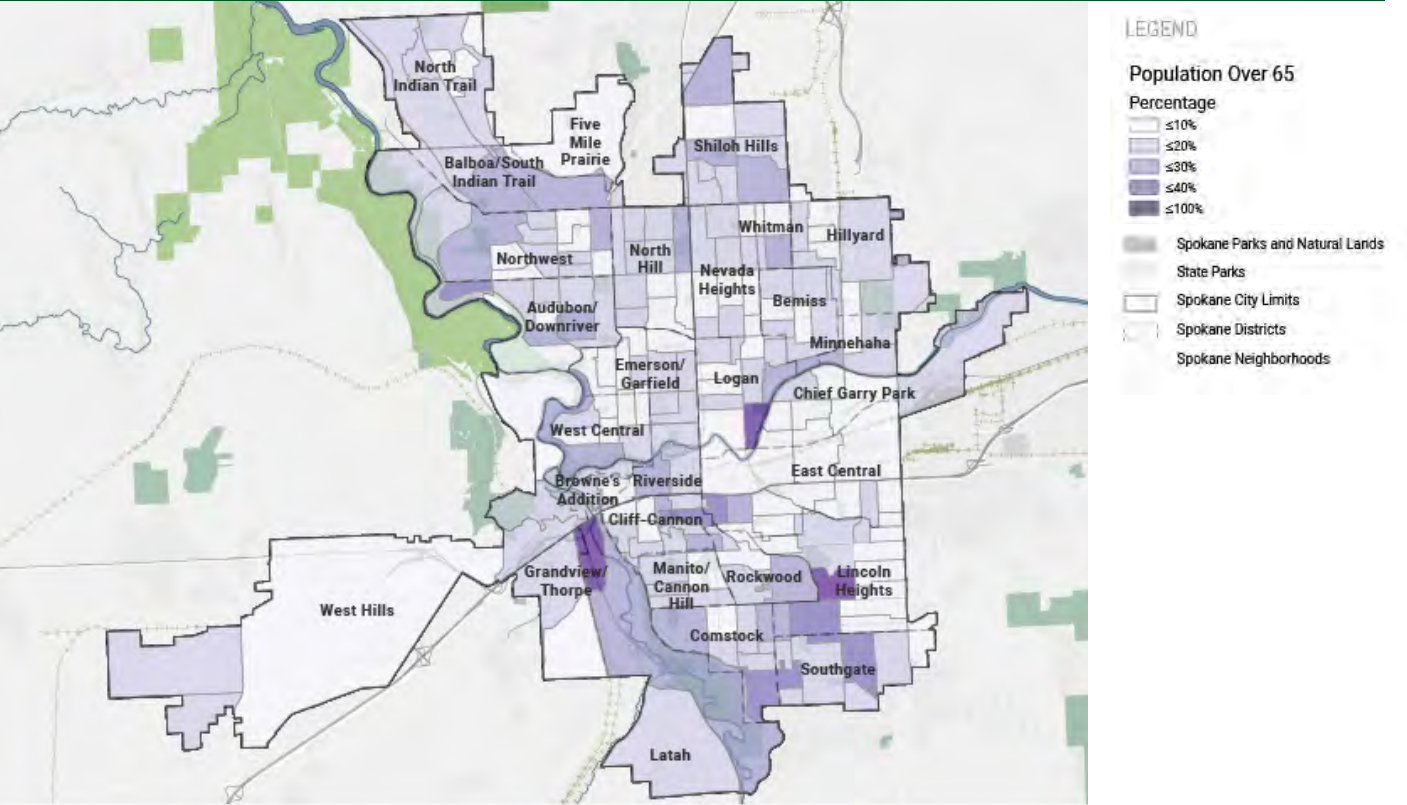


MAP 6: AGE DISTRIBUTION - UNDER 20



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 American Community Survey

MAP 7: AGE DISTRIBUTION - OVER 65



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 American Community Survey

**A large student population located near Gonzaga University and Liberty Park**

Areas with a large concentration of individuals younger than 20 years of age include the area around Gonzaga University and Liberty Park, as well as a small pocket in the northeastern part of the City.

**Largest age segment is those aged 25 to 40 who may have families**

The largest age segment, representing 28.1 percent of people in Spokane, is millennial adults between the age of 25 and 44. The City's population of children (less than 14 years of age) is similar to the State's average, both representing about 18 percent of the population. Map 6 shows the distribution of those under age 20.

**A growing aging community, specifically in eastern portions of the City**

The 65 and older age group is noteworthy, accounting for 16.8 percent of the population. This age group is expected to grow the fastest of any age segment in the coming years, reaching 18.5 percent of the population in 2025. Map 7 shows the residential location of those 65 or older. A large concentration of residents over the age of 65 live in the southeastern and northeastern portions of the City.

**Greater concentrations of people live in the older parts of Spokane**

Spokane's population is concentrated in District 1 and pockets of District 2 along the Spokane River (Map 8). The newer parts of the City in the north are less dense. This look at population density helps us understand which areas of the City



Spokane youth participating in outdoor programming

will likely have greater demand for park use.

**A city that is growing in racial and ethnic diversity**

An area's diversity index increases to 100 when the population is evenly divided into two or more race/ethnic groups.<sup>1</sup> Spokane's Diversity Index is projected to grow from 38.5 in 2020 to 42.1 in 2025.

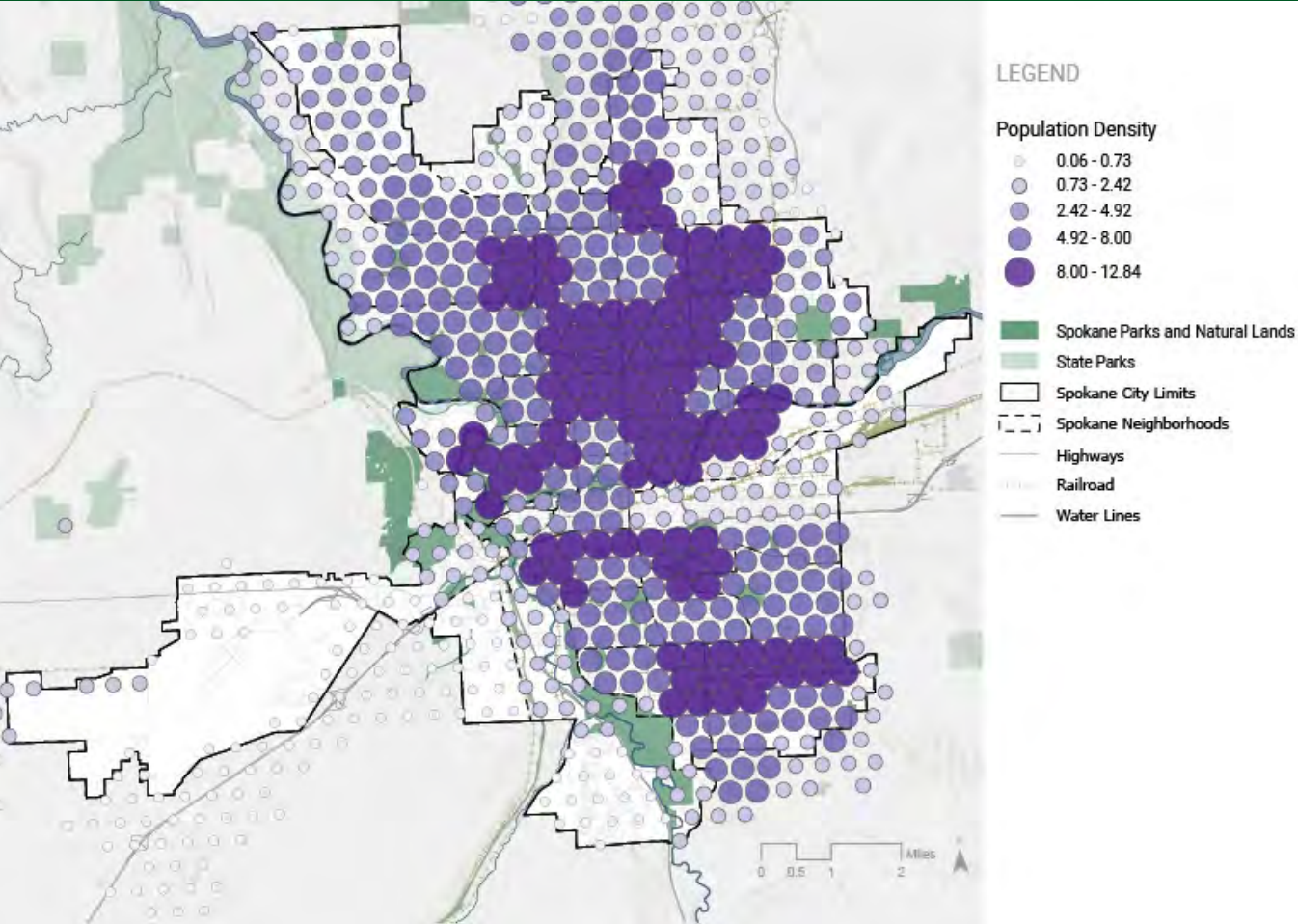
Areas with notably high rates of racially diverse populations include east of East Central, west of Emerson/Garfield, and portions of the Whitman, Nevada Heights, and Hillyard neighborhoods. In general, the northeastern portion of the City is more diverse than the other districts.

As of 2020, white residents account for the majority of Spokane City's

<sup>1</sup> Esri. Community Profile 2021, Retrieved from Esri Business Analyst. Source Data: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2010 Summary File 1. Esri forecasts for 2020 and 2025 Esri converted Census 2000 data into 2010 geography.



MAP 8: SPOKANE POPULATION DENSITY



Source: 2020 US Census Bureau, Graphic by Design Workshop

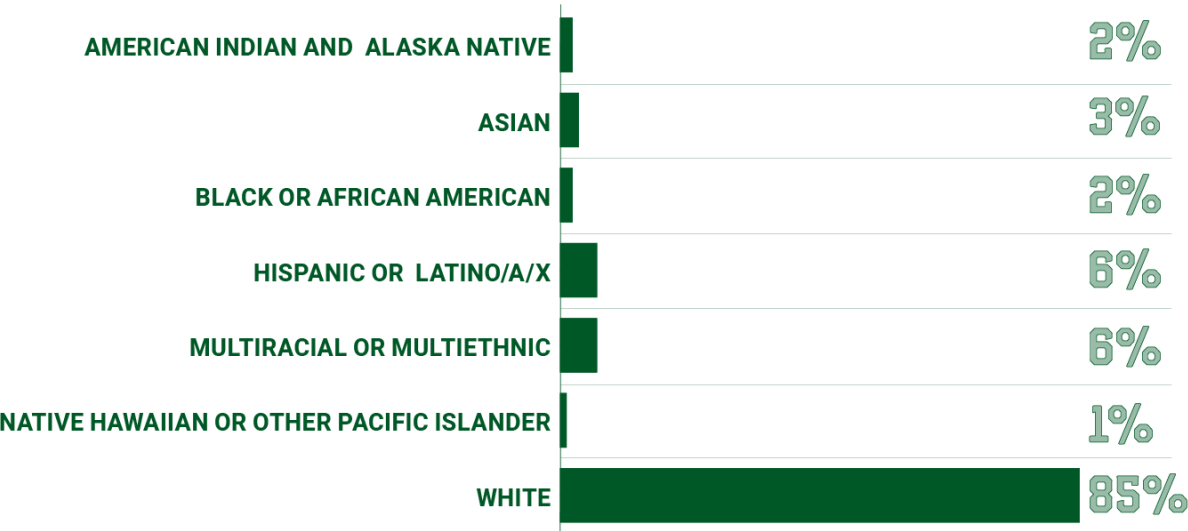


Figure 5: Spokane population by race and ethnicity. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020.

population (83.9 percent), followed by people of Hispanic origin (7 percent), Asian (2.9 percent), Black or African American (2.7 percent) and American Indian or Alaska Native (2.1 percent) residents (Figure 4). Ninety-two percent of Spokane residents speak English only and 2.4 percent speak Spanish only. The Russian language is also prevalent in the City; according to data from ACS 2019, about 3.6 percent of the City’s population claims Russian heritage. A Diversity Index, developed by ESRI was used to understand the racial and ethnic makeup of a specific geography. The Diversity Index is based on the Census block group level and ranges from 0 (no diversity) to 100 (complete diversity). As determined by ESRI Business Analyst data descriptions, “if an area’s entire population unhoused families rose by 21 percent and the number of single adults rose by 19 percent between 2019 and 2020<sup>2</sup>.

**A community with a local indigenous population and a representative population base of the Interior Salish Group**

The Spokane and other Indigenous people have lived on the unceded lands today known as Spokane since time immemorial. Two percent of Spokane’s population is comprised of Indigenous residents.

**A rise in unhoused residents**

According to the 2020 “Point in Time Count” provided by the City of Spokane and Spokane County’s Continuum of Care program, approximately 1,500 people

2 Point-in-Time Count 2020, <https://static.spokanecity.org/documents/chhs/hmis/reports/2020-pit-count-presentation.pdf>. Accessed 4 Dec. 2021.



YPI participants enjoying Spokane’s natural lands

in Spokane are experiencing homelessness and seek services provided by shelters. Nearly a quarter of these residents are adults with children; the number of population.

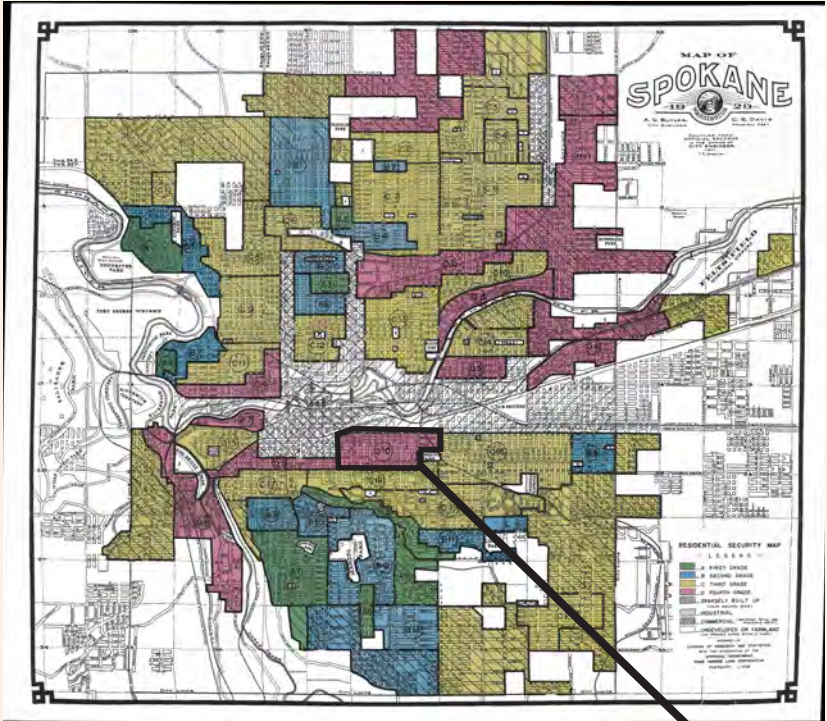


## HISTORIC REDLINING

To gain a full understanding of the systemic and persistent disinvestment in specific neighborhoods, this equity analysis considers redlining, which was one of many tactics used to perpetuate housing segregation in the middle of the 20th century. The effects of modern racial wealth inequality and environmental injustices can be traced to redlining.

Between 1935 and 1940, the Home Owners' Loan Corporation (HOLC), a federal agency, created "Residential Security" maps to illustrate the risk associated with distributing home loans in certain neighborhoods. Areas were rated on a scale from A to D with D being the lowest score, and thus, difficult or impossible for residents desiring to live in these areas to obtain a the loan required to purchase a home. The term 'redlining' stems from the red color used to indicate D-rated areas (Figure 5). Ratings were based on characteristics including the presence of industrial uses and, most significantly, race and ethnicity.

The modern effects of this historic practice are felt today, as many Black Americans were denied access to the fundamental wealth-building mechanism of homeownership. The inability to accumulate generational wealth has contributed to racial income inequality over the last ninety years. There is a direct correlation between parts of the city that received low ratings during the era of redlining and neighborhoods today that are prone to socioeconomic



**Figure 6:** Excerpt from 1938 HOLC "Residential Security" Map. Source: Mapping Inequality, University of Richmond.

"Largely zoned for industry and business. Lot values are \$5 per front foot or less. The territory immediately adjacent to Liberty Park is slightly better grade but proximity to largest [Black] concentration of the city precludes higher grading. This is the "melting pot" of Spokane, and is extremely heterogeneous. The area is accorded a "low red" grade."

vulnerabilities as quantified by the CDC and public health inequities.

### HOW DOES THIS IMPACT THE PARKS AND NATURAL LANDS MASTER PLAN?

Living adjacent to industrial uses exposes residents to hazardous air, poor water quality and often limits access to parks and natural lands. These neighborhoods should be prioritized for investment in the immediate future to reduce existing harms and support environmental justice mitigation efforts.

## RECREATION TRENDS

### POPULAR ACTIVITIES

In the 2021 Parks and Natural Lands Community Survey, residents of Spokane reported they most use their parks and natural lands for simple or communal pursuits in the outdoors. Using the walking and hiking trails, spending time with family and friends, relax/contemplate/meditate and attending special events are among the top five ways the system is used today. Open swim and aquatic programs are the most highly-utilized of all program offerings in the city. Similarly, the 2018-2022 Recreation and Conservation Plan for Washington State (RCO) report states that the top activities in Washington based on participation rate are walking; visiting rivers, streams, beaches, or tide pools; attending outdoor concerts or events; and gathering or collecting things in a nature setting. These trends reflect a strong preference for outdoor recreation and are similar to national trends that indicate a preference for walking, running and bicycling, freshwater fishing and camping.

### Interests by Demographics

According to the Outdoor Industry Association, when asked about which activities they are most interested yet do not participate in, younger individuals in the U.S. (ages six to 24) predominantly chose fishing and camping. People 45 and older expressed more interest in bicycling and swimming. Interestingly, this trend is similar when demographics are dissected by income. Fishing and camping are the two activities people of lower income expressed most



Open swim and aquatic programs are the most highly utilized of all program offerings in the city

interest in, compared to bicycling and swimming for fitness on the other side of the income spectrum. This information is important in understanding Spokane's diverse outdoor and recreation needs and considering how to ease barriers for participation.

### National Trends in Spokane

The National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA), national experts in recreation, completes annual studies of parks and recreation trends so that local departments can anticipate future needs. The trends that will most likely affect Spokane include climate change (specifically increasing temperatures); "disruptive" technology, including electric micromobility devices like self-balancing devices, e-rollerblades, e-scooters and e-bikes; monitoring systems such as beacon counters, geofencing and drones; and the rising popularity of dog parks. Already Spokane has welcomed

People 45 and older expressed more interest in bicycling and swimming.



## NATIONAL RECREATION TRENDS



### Climate change

Parks provide natural infrastructure to reduce urban heat island effects and mitigate extreme heat.



### Technology

Micro and e-mobility devices are upending the ways that people access parks. Beacon counters, geofencing, and drones provide data that can help administrators understand usage patterns.



### Pets

Dog parks are one of the fastest growing types of parks in the country and can contribute to agency revenues and tourism.

## LOCAL RECREATION TRENDS

### Top 12 Activities Residents Like to do in Spokane Parks and Natural Areas

1. Enjoy nature and/or wildlife
2. Use walking and hiking trails
3. Spend time with family and/or friends
4. Relax/contemplate/meditate
5. Attend special events
6. Use playgrounds
7. Exercise
8. Walk dog/use off leash dog areas
9. Use splash pads/pools
10. Kayak/raft/canoe/stand up paddleboard
11. Picnic/BBQ
12. SkyRide, ride the carousel, use the skate ribbon

Source: Master Plan Community Survey results (2021)

scooter share systems, which allow users to rent scooters by the minute and leave them at their destination. The City has been strategic in addressing safety in high-use public spaces by implementing non-visible speed barriers that automatically restrict top scooter speeds in specified zones like Riverfront Park.

See Appendix B for more information about recreation trends.

## HOW DO PEOPLE WISH THEY RECREATED?

According to the Outdoor Industry Association, when asked about which activities they are most interested yet do not participate in, younger individuals in the U.S. (ages six to 24) predominantly chose fishing and camping. People 45 and older expressed more interest in bicycling and swimming. Interestingly, this trend is similar when demographics are dissected by income. Fishing and camping are the two activities people of lower income expressed most interest in, compared to bicycling and swimming for fitness on the other side of the income spectrum. This information is important in understanding Spokane's diverse outdoor and recreation needs and considering how to ease barriers for participation.





# SPOKANE RECREATION TRENDS

Data gathered from community surveys pointed to areas of opportunity for Spokane to expand services to residents. Respondents indicated a strong desire for restrooms in more parks and trail heads and increased access and maintenance of existing facilities. Other facilities that rose to the top of desire amenities include playgrounds and trail heads. In addition, the six recreation trends listed below were commonly requested.



**Dog Parks:** Mirroring national recreation trends, Spokane residents desire more facilities for their dogs to safely play, exercise, and socialize. There are currently only two public dog parks, Downtown Spokane Dog Park on Riverside Avenue, which is less than one acre, and SpokAnimal Dog Park, an 11-plus acre space in High Bridge Park. Both off-leash dog parks are in District 2. Standards for dog parks has risen in recent years and residents appreciate additional amenities such as water fountains for both people and dogs, secure fencing, and trash cans.



**Gathering Spaces:** More than three quarters of respondents to the statistically valid survey indicated ‘provide social opportunities, places to gather and community events’ as an essential or very important aspect of parks and recreation facilities and programs. Forty-four percent of respondents said that ‘spend time with family and/or friends’ is one of the things they like to do in Spokane’s parks and natural lands.



**Disc Golf Courses:** Spokane’s disc golf programs have helped shaped the game play in the Northwest region. Sixty (60) percent of respondents in the statistically valid survey indicated a desire for more disc golf courses. Many comments in the survey also noted a specific desire for more disc golf courses in general and professional level courses specifically, to host professional events. There are currently seven courses across the city.



**Pickleball Courts:** Recreation trends reports show popularity of this sport growing within the region. Forty-eight percent of respondents (excluding respondents who selected “Don’t Know”) in the statistically valid survey indicated they “strongly ” and/or “somewhat” prefer the City consider adding outdoor pickleball courts in the next few years. Respondents also noted a desire for lights at existing facilities for year-round use. Comparisons to other communities of a similar size indicate that Spokane’s current level of service does not meet the averages for Tennis/ Pickleball courts. The Parks Department should consider expanding on those needs to help reduce service gaps.



**Biking and Skating Facilities:** Facilities such as BMX courses, pump tracks, skate parks, and mountain bike trails (soft surface trails) are important to people in Spokane. One-third of respondents in the statistically valid survey said they use the biking trails and students in grades K-6 prioritized bicycle and skating facilities in parks. Respondents also indicated a need for improved signage and wayfinding on biking trails; nearly half of respondents noted that getting to parks, trails, and natural lands by bicycling is a challenge.



**Nature-Based Play:** Nature-based play, which includes activities such as adventure programming, nature-based water play, rock climbing and exploration ranked high on preference scales by adults in community workshops. When students in grades K-6 were asked about their preferences, nature-based activities like climbing and playing in water and features like tree forts and rocks, ranked highly. Adults and kids alike prioritized access to nature in public engagement sessions.



## OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

Through the Spokane Parks and Natural Lands Master Plan process, the system has been analyzed through a technical lens as well as the perception of the public. These tools have led to the identification of several opportunities that should be supported and enhanced, as well as potential challenges to address.

### OPPORTUNITIES

#### Sustainability and Resilience

Spokane’s parks and recreation system is one that is defined by beloved natural lands as well as several special use parks that showcase Spokane’s pride in its public spaces and inclusive mindset. There is an opportunity to infuse sustainability and resiliency best practices into all of Spokane’s properties to address both climate risk and adaptation.

#### Volunteerism and Education

With an enthusiasm for the park system and appreciation for what exists, Spokane has a strong base of volunteerism that can be built upon and enhanced. Spokane’s highly active population presents an opportunity to create programs that educate and empower residents.

Without adjustments in park funding levels that increase with system expansions, it will be difficult for the City to keep up maintenance of existing and future park properties.

#### Equitable Investment and Cultural Reflection

With a park system that was founded on the idea of every resident having access within a quarter mile, many parks are in ideal locations to be accessible to residents. Ongoing investments in existing spaces will make the park system current, safe and reflective of Spokane’s culture. With neighborhood pride supported by active neighborhood councils, the political and organizational structure is placed for making locally driven investments.

### CHALLENGES

#### Concentrated At-risk Population

Spokane has a relatively high proportion of its population that is considered “at-risk,” with the percentage of Spokane households receiving SNAP benefits (food stamps) nearly double that of the state and nearly one-third of households include one or more people living with a disability. Concentrations of these households are located predominately in District 1 or northeast Spokane; District 1 also has the least amount of park acreage per population. Additionally, with the construction of a north-south highway located in District 1, residents to the east will be bifurcated from the rest of the City. As large infrastructure projects pose barriers to access especially for those traveling by foot or bike, the construction of east-west trail and path connections and park investments in District 1 east of the new freeway are imperative.

With a growing aging population in Spokane, the 2019-2021 Spokane

County Community Needs Assessment points to a need for “aging friendly communities,” which has implications for park design and programming, as well as the reality that high costs of living and fixed wages among aging residents are affecting rates of homelessness among the 65 and older population.

#### Rising Unsheltered Population

Homelessness is an issue that faces many communities across the United States, and Spokane has witnessed growth in unsheltered residents, along with a high visibility of encampments and impacts to citizen’s perception of safety. Over the last two years, the City of Spokane has worked on addressing unsheltered homelessness. The City has invested more in street outreach to register people into the homeless service system and has also begun utilizing an integrated database system to better track and map encampments and improve opportunities to send targeted service supports to those areas. As the Park’s Department interfaces with and also potentially serves unsheltered citizens, it is critical that administrators understand and coordinate with City and regional efforts underway to address these challenges.

#### Growing Population

As Spokane is known as a great place to start a business and a small city with an affordable cost of living compared to neighboring west coast cities like Seattle, Portland and San Francisco, Spokane continues to receive nationwide recognition and resulting growth. The City of Spokane is projected to grow by 13,000



**Snxw Mene?** (sin-HOO-men-huh) is an island just north of the Blue Bridge. It was rededicated in 2017 to the Spokane Tribe of Indians in acknowledgment of the sacred and historic connection between the island and the Spokane Tribe. The name **Snxw Mene?** means “salmon people” in English.

residents by the year 2027. More residents and higher visitation rates translate to more stress on parks, natural areas, sensitive landscapes and wildlife habitats, more wear-and-tear and higher maintenance costs, and more crowding and competition for access to trails and recreation facilities.

#### Climate Change

Impacts from climate change, such as changes in wildlife habitat and ecosystems, coupled with rising temperatures and an increase in wildfires will exacerbate stress on the system and result in changes to how we recreate and enjoy the outdoors. Without adjustments in park funding levels that increase with additional system expansion and adaptations in land and recreation management tactics to address environmental and human health, it will be difficult for the City to keep up maintenance and adapt to meet this projected change.

i Esri. Community Profile 2021, Retrieved from Esri Business Analyst. Source Data: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2010 Summary File 1. Esri forecasts for 2020 and 2025 Esri converted Census 2000 data into 2010 geography.

ii Point-in-Time Count 2020, <https://static.spokanecity.org/documents/chhs/hmis/reports/2020-pit-count-presentation.pdf>. Accessed 4 Dec. 2021.



## IDENTIFYING CHALLENGES

### Barriers to Participation

Several respondents to the Spokane Parks and Natural Lands Master Plan online survey noted that some of the program costs present a barrier for participation. Lowering or removing the program fees would make them more accessible, however the Parks Department currently works at a \$1.7 to \$2.5 million deficit annually, despite continuously refining their programs. Without additional funding, the Parks Department cannot offer more programs, events, and services that are free or low-cost for residents. One of the greatest challenges for the Parks Department is to balance the programs that are being offered and securing the funding to provide those services.

### Lack of Indoor Facilities

Another key challenge is the limited number of indoor recreation facilities and a lack of funding to add more. Ideally, a centralized indoor space would be available for youth summer camps and other activities, which are often cancelled due to smoke, rain, or other inclement weather. While some schools have joint agreements with the City, allowing them access to their indoor spaces, competition with School District programming may limit the amount and diversity of activities the Department can provide. Despite the desire for additional indoor recreational space, it is important to note that building or expanding facilities to meet the demand of an increasing and evolving population, as well as hiring the staff needed to operate and maintain them, is a challenge based on the projected City budget.

In 2021 the Parks Department, in partnership with the city of Spokane and the Spokane Public Facilities District (PFD) opened The Podium, an indoor facility directly adjacent Riverfront Park. The facility sits on public park land, is maintained and operated by PFD and per the current lease agreement is available for public programming and use by the Parks Department four days a week. This will enhance indoor levels of service for the immediate future.

### Existing Dedicated Funding Sources Do Not Cover Needed Capital and Operational Improvements

The Parks Department’s dedicated funding source is from the City’s general fund, which is an allocation of eight percent of the city’s general fund expenditures. This funding covers primarily operational needs (\$24.6 million), with a smaller portion available for capital improvements (less than \$5 million annually, based on historic spending). Over the past 22 years, the Parks Department has relied heavily on voter approval for major bond initiatives in order to invest in renovating and building new park facilities. These bond initiatives have been instrumental in funding many of Spokane’s state-of-the-art facilities that expand the department’s ability to provide for all ages and abilities, such as the Providence Playscape at Riverfront Park and investments in six aquatics facilities throughout the city. These represent important investments in the parks system that could not have been done with existing dedicated funding sources and without voter approval.



Looking forward, it is therefore assumed that additional funding will need to be sought for most project improvements contained in this plan. While the City has had success in passing bonds in the past, relying on them for the future of the system’s success is a risk.





# 2

## EVALUATING THE PARKS SYSTEM

- Level of Service Analyses
- Environmental and Financial Sustainability
- System Equity



# CHAPTER 2. EVALUATING THE PARKS SYSTEM



## LEVEL OF SERVICE ANALYSES

### HOW ARE WE DOING?

The City of Spokane was laid-out in a pattern that encouraged development of neighborhoods with parks in their core. This strategic design and continued investment in growth and improvements in response to population growth have resulted in Spokane’s high rates of park access as compared to most US cities. A detailed analysis of the current distribution of parks found that 89 percent of households in the City of Spokane are within a 10-minute walk of a public park or school grounds. While this is significantly higher than the national average of 55 percent, it is not the only measurement of a complete parks, recreation, and natural lands system. Closer examination of eight questions below point to aspects for improvement:

- 1. **Do we have enough?**
- 2. **Are parks located in the right places?**
- 3. **Which parks are in poor condition?**
- 4. **Are facilities meeting program needs?**
- 5. **Are we managing natural lands to meet environmental goals?**

- 6. **How well are parks funded?**
- 7. **Is our system equitable and inclusive?**

This chapter provides an evaluation of Spokane’s current parks, recreation offerings and natural lands to identify gaps in service, under-served areas or populations, and community feedback about the system’s overall performance. The analysis in this report is filtered through an equity lens to ensure that changes to the park system do not have disproportionate consequences on people based on their race, income, disability, gender, age, where they live, and more. A comparison of the three city districts identifies locations that are under-served. For instance, District 1 has considerably fewer acres of parks (458) compared to District 2 (1,651) and District 3 (748), and many of the parks in District 1 are small, in disrepair, and without the same level of investment in facilities and recreation amenities of peer parks. The data indicates a need to shift the Parks Department’s focus to more, smaller projects and increased maintenance throughout the City rather than a large, singular project such as the focus with Riverfront Park over the past decade.

## 1. DO WE HAVE ENOUGH?

### Acres of parks

A common measurement to assess level of service is the acreage of parkland compared to the population. Currently, when measuring all parklands, approximately 16.2 acres of park space are provided per 1,000 people. Excluding golf courses, parkways and natural lands, this number drops to 5.8 developed acres per 1,000 people, significantly lower than the national average of 9.9 acres per 1,000 people (NRPA). This data provide a baseline to help understand if the amount of parkland is appropriate for the current population and any projected growth.

Spokane’s population is projected to reach 237,000 people, an increase of approximately 13,000 residents from 2020. In order to provide the same level of park service for the growing population, the city would need to increase parkland acreage by 5.8 percent.

Spokane currently provides **16.2 acres** of total park land per 1,000 people.

Spokane currently provides **5.8 acres** of developed park land per 1,000 people.

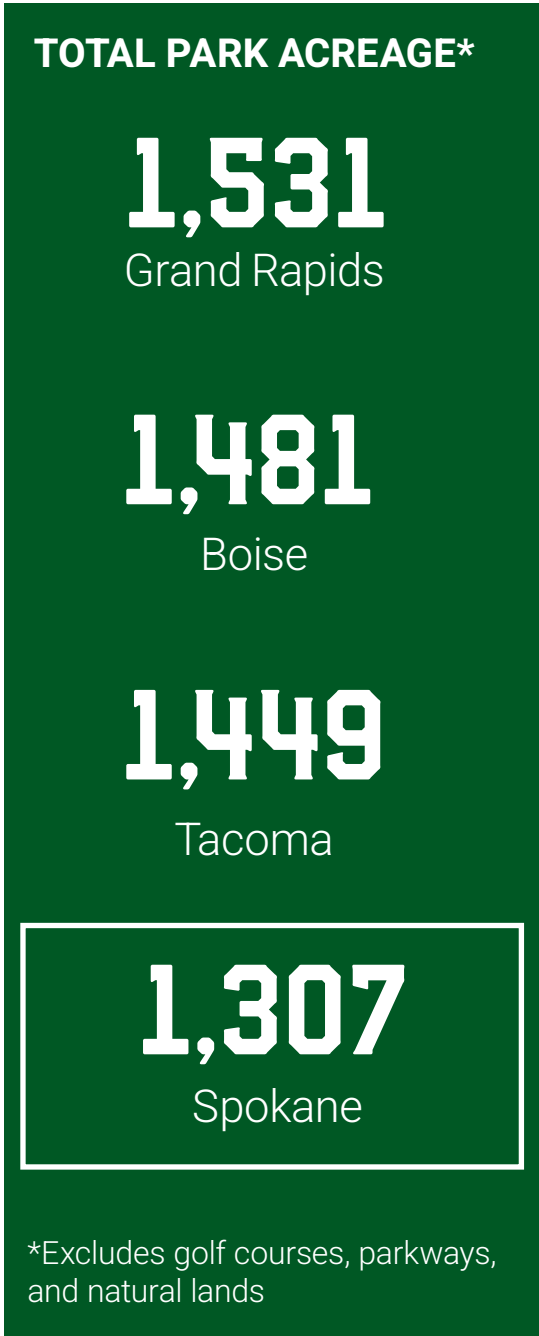
Table 4: Park acreage with projected population increase

PARK CLASSIFICATION	NUMBER OF PROPERTIES	PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE PROPERTY ACRES	ACRES/1,000 POPULATION IN 2020 (223,600)	ACRES/1,000 POPULATION IN 2037 * (236,698)	ACRES NEEDED TO MEET CURRENT LEVEL OF SERVICE STANDARDS IN 2037
Regional Parks	3	474	2.1	2.0	26
Special Use Parks	6	248	1.11	1	15
Golf Course	4	690	3.09	3	40
Community Park	12	297	1.33	1	17
Neighborhood Park	32	274	1.23	1	16
Pocket Park	13	14	0.06	0	1
Parkway	18	196	0.88	1	11
Natural Lands	17	1,643	7.35	7	96
Total	105	3,836	17.2	16.2	222
Total excluding golf courses, parkways and natural lands	82	1,307	5.8	5.5	<100

\*Without adding new parks



### Comparable Community Benchmarking

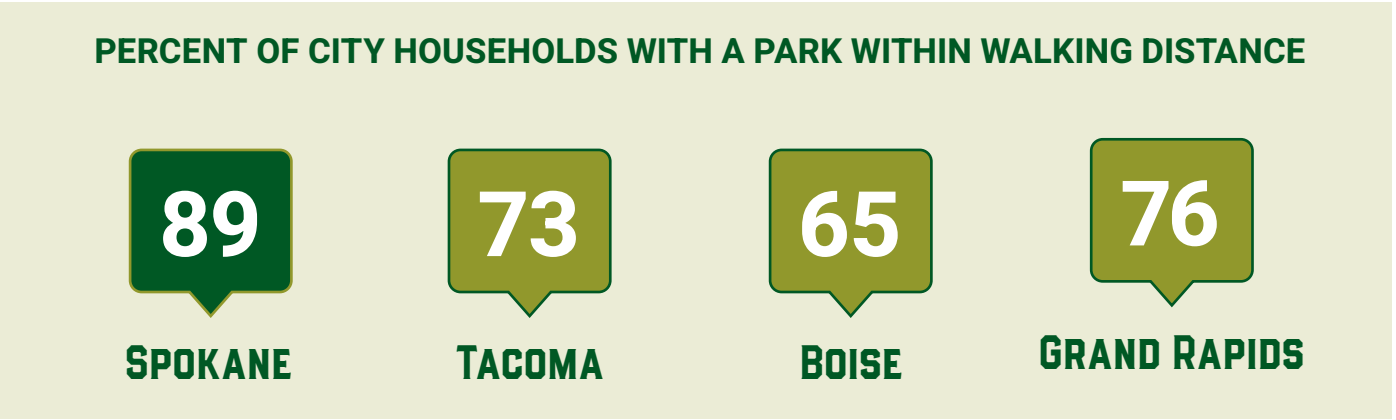


**Benchmarking Comparable Communities**

One best practice is to compare park acreage level of service to benchmark communities or cities with comparable qualities. Tacoma, WA, Grand Rapids, MI and Boise, ID were selected due to similarities in population, climate, natural setting and/or ranking on numerous ‘best of’ lists.

As seen in Table 5 Spokane ranks in the middle of all benchmarking cities when it comes to “developed and public access” parks, which include regional, community and neighborhood parks, special use, plazas and pocket parks. In terms of acres of natural lands, Tacoma and Boise have double and three times, respectively, the amount of Spokane. This comparison provides an important indicator for the Parks Department to use to understand if they are surpassing or falling behind other similar sized cities and help to identify areas of improvement to create and maintain a high-quality parks and natural lands system.

In order to provide the same level of park service for the growing population, the city would need to increase park acreage by 5.8%.



Source: Design Workshop 2021 (Spokane), Trust for Public Land 2021 (other cities).

Table 5: Benchmark comparison, acres of park and natural lands per 1,000 people

PARK CLASSIFICATION	SPOKANE	BOISE, ID	GRAND RAPIDS, MI	TACOMA, WA
Regional Parks	2.13	0.38	5.42	3.98
Special Use Parks	1.12	3.17	0.08	0.73
Golf Course	3.11	1.27	0.46	N/A
Community Park	1.34	1.32	1.26	1.17
Neighborhood Park	1.23	1.31	0.82	0.76
Pocket Park	0.06	0.08	0.03	0.03
Parkway	0.88	0.49	N/A	N/A
Natural Lands	7.40	28.42	6.56	13.96
Total developed park acres*	5.88	7.53	8.07	6.67

\*Excludes golf, parkway, natural land

Spokane’s strength is an equitable distribution of neighborhood parks but it has significantly less park land than comparable cities.



“...the subdivided portions of cities ought to have neighborhood parks if possible not more than half a mile from any residence.”

Source: 1913 Olmsted Brothers Master Plan for Spokane Parks

2. ARE PARKS LOCATED IN THE RIGHT PLACES?

PARK ACCESS GAPS

The Parks and Recreation Department looks to the century-old Olmsted Plan for guidance and inspiration. The Olmsted Plan set an important standard—for all residents to be able to access parkland within one-half mile of their home—so Spokane’s park system has a strong foundation of neighborhood and community parks distributed throughout the city.

Today, with the help of schools and privately operated parks, 89 percent of Spokane residents can access park space within a 10-minute walk. Approximately 78 percent of residents are within a comfortable walk distance to a city-owned park. With a national average of 55 percent of residents able to access parks within a 10-minute walk, Spokane is a model for how parks should be geographically distributed to serve their community.

In 2021, the Trust for Public Lands, in evaluating park systems throughout the top 100 largest cities in the Unites

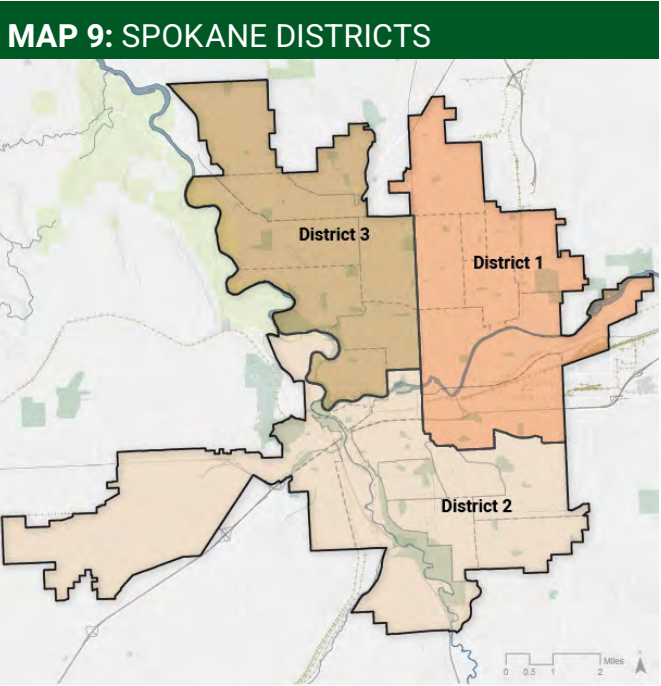
States, found Spokane’s to rank 17th best. This ranking is based off criteria that measure the opportunities a system provides residents to get outside and recreate. Spokane’s system is also notable in having one of the highest ranking amount of park acreage contained in the system as well as above-average levels of public investments made in parks and their amenities. This ranking puts Spokane slightly behind other west coast communities including San Francisco (sixth), Seattle (ninth) and Portland (tenth).

A walkshed analysis, shown in Map 10, identifies areas that can be reached within a 10 minute walk from parks or natural lands (and having sidewalks and trails connecting to them for a true half-mile walking distance). Significant barriers, including rivers and highways, are factored into the walkshed. Layering residential address points on this walkshed (shown in orange) reveals the homes that cannot reach green space within a short walk.

Spokane’s parks are distributed throughout the city to provide 89 percent of households a publicly available park within a comfortable walking distance. This is a considerably better coverage than benchmark cities of Tacoma, Boise, and Grand Rapids. However, the availability of parks differs by geographic area of Spokane as explored in further detail in the coming section.

DISTRIBUTION OF PARKS

A summary of the distribution of parks by the three City Districts is compared in Table 6. District 2, representing south Spokane, contains the largest amount of park acreage. Although serving the smallest number of households, District 2 has approximately 1,000 more park acres than District 1 (representing northeast Spokane) and 900 more acres than District 3 (northwest Spokane). District 2 holds the most individual parks – 43 park properties compared to 28 in both Districts 1 and 2. District 2 holds nine distinct natural lands properties compared to one in District 1 and four in District 3, meaning that residents in this district are afforded more access to recreation in a natural setting. District 1 has the least amount of park acreage, resulting in more competition and use of park amenities.



Source: City of Spokane GIS data (2021)

Table 6: Parks and Households per District

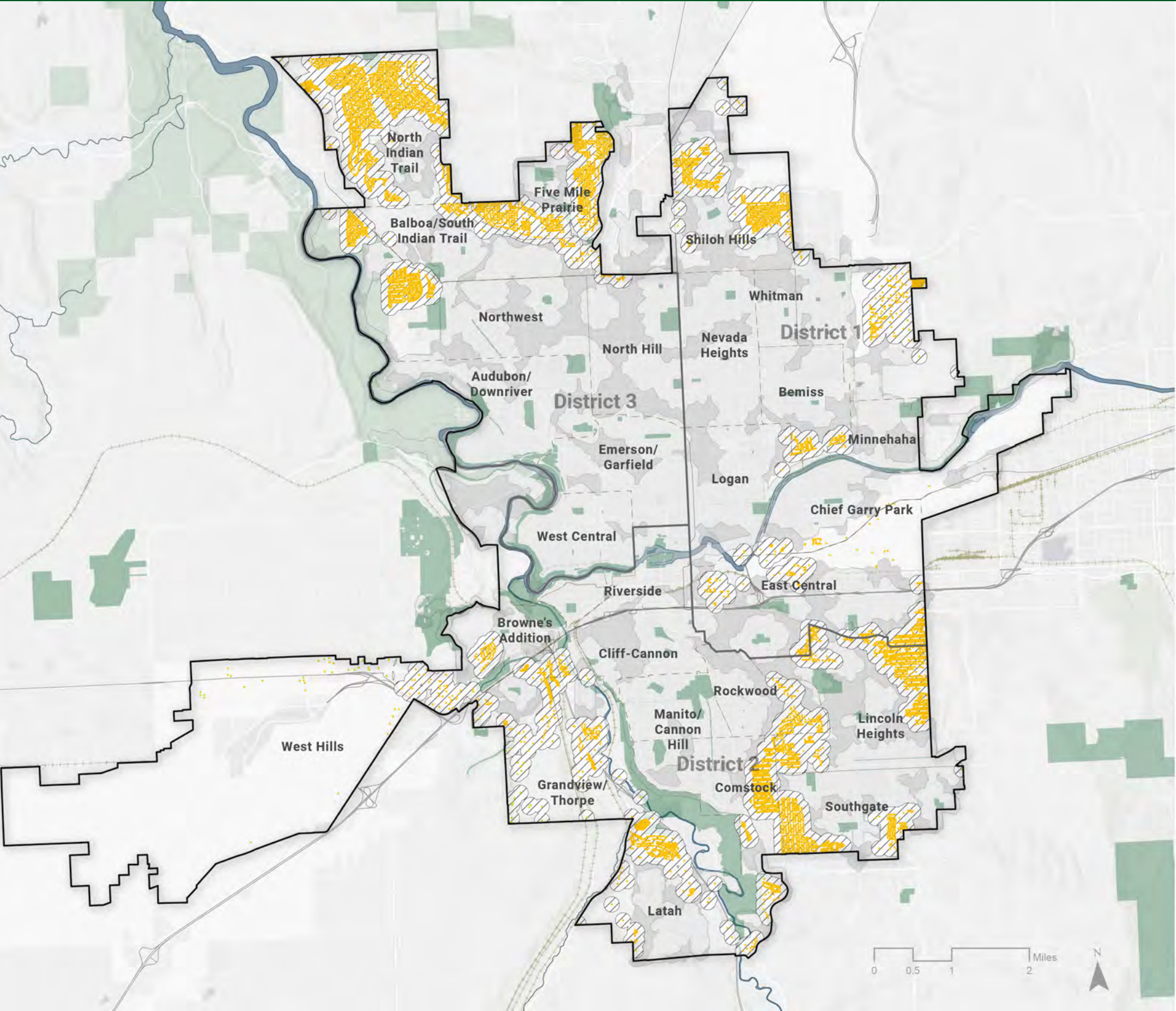
DISTRICT	HOUSEHOLDS	PARK ACRES	PARK PROPERTIES	PARK ACRES PER HOUSEHOLD
District 1	32,267	458	28	0.014
District 2	29,380	1,681	43	0.057
District 3	33,466	748	28	0.02
Total	95,113	3,863	105	0.04

Source: City of Spokane GIS data 2021

District 2 has more park acres per household than both Districts 1 and 3 combined



MAP 10: WALKSHED PARK GAPS



LEGEND

- Park Gaps
- Homes Located Outside 10-Minute Park Walk
- 10-Minute Walkshed
- 5-Minute Walkshed
- Spokane Parks and Natural Lands
- State Parks
- Water Bodies
- Spokane City Limits
- Spokane Districts
- Spokane Neighborhoods
- Highways
- Railroads

- Distribution of Parks**
- » **District 1** has a larger percentage of households with parks within walking distance of their homes, but the smallest total acreage of parks. According to public feedback, the quality of some of these parks is less desirable and that they are used less. This indicates that walkshed is not the only measure of park need.
  - » **District 2** has 18 percent of its households without a park within walking distance. Many of their parks are larger natural areas or larger acreage parks. The large number of households without park access indicates a need for better connections between park spaces and to residential areas of the district, particularly in the Lincoln Heights and Southgate neighborhoods.
  - » **District 3** has 14 percent of the district's households are without a park within a 10-minute walk of their home (equates to 4,232 households). Investments on city owned property within the northwest portion of the district, if completed, will improve park access for residents in this quickly growing part of the city.

See Appendix A, tables 6-8 for a detailed neighborhood by neighborhood breakdown of park distribution and household access to park

**89%**  
of Spokane residents can access park space within a 10-minute walk of a park

Source: Design Workshop Analysis 2021, City of Spokane GIS data 2021, Spokane County GIS Data



PARK GAPS PER DISTRICT

The following neighborhoods have the highest percentage or number of households that are not within a 10 minute walkshed. Significant findings below are organized by district and neighborhood. A breakdown of park access by neighborhood can be found in Appendix A: Park Inventory.

DISTRICT 1

**Shiloh Hills:** The Shiloh Hills Neighborhood in the northwestern part of the city currently lacks adequate park access. Consider acquiring land east of North Nevada Street, near multi-family housing units.

DISTRICT 2

**Lincoln Heights:** Lincoln Park, Underhill Park, Thornton Murphy Park and the Lincoln Heights Elementary School are located within the central or western side of the Lincoln Heights neighborhood, however those living on the eastern edge of the neighborhood lacks park access within a short walk. Those living east of South Ray Street face barriers in crossing this high-capacity roadway to access parkland.

**Comstock and Southgate:** Although residents living on the western edge of Comstock and eastern edge of Southgate neighborhoods currently lack park access within a 10-minute walk, a fifteen to twenty-minute walk (or quick drive) from this neighborhood affords access to High Drive Bluff Park with an extensive trail system and premier views. The suburban nature of these neighborhoods contribute to park

access lacking more than an actual deficiency of park space provided.

**Latah/Hangman:** The Latah/Hangman neighborhood is comprised of more recent residential developments within the City of Spokane. On the southwestern most portion of town, this neighborhood is separated from the rest of Spokane by Highway 195. While residents likely enjoy the natural setting afforded by surrounding forested land and views of Hangman Creek, the neighborhood currently lacks a city-owned park property. There is a privately maintained park with a playground, sport court and lawn. Access to nearby High Drive Bluff Park is provided by a short drive.

DISTRICT 3

**North Indian Trail:** The development of the Meadowglen Community Park will significantly improve access for the North Indian Trail neighborhood, which has the highest percentage of its population outside a 10 minute walk to a park.

**Five Mile Prairie:** The Five Mile Prairie neighborhood is a newer residential area within the City of Spokane that is not fully built out. There are many vacant properties located in a patchwork fashion within this largely single-family neighborhood. As the area continues to subdivide and planned residential developments are proposed, the city should be equipped to plan and develop a new park property to service this growing part of the city.

**Northwest:** The residences that currently lack access to parkland are within close proximity to the Dwight Merkel Sports Complex, BMX Bike Track, and Fairmount Memorial Park,

however the curved streets of the suburban style residential development coupled with a large tree buffer do not create an environment that promotes residents walking to access these facilities.

3. WHICH PARKS ARE IN POOR CONDITION?

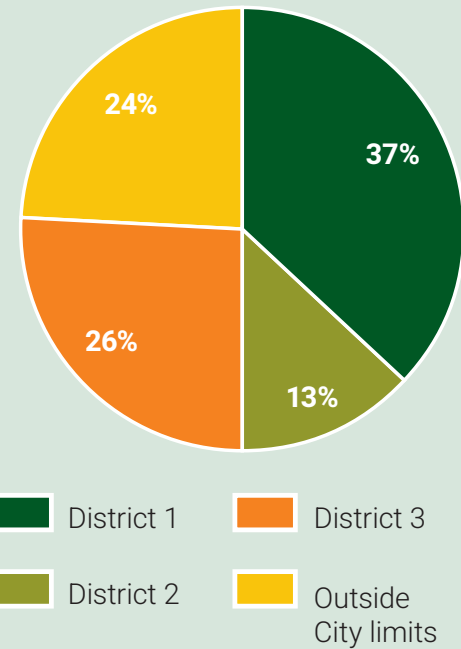
PARK QUALITY

When talking about equity in parks, it is important to consider factors including quality, condition, amenities and recreation programming. A high-level analysis conducted by park staff provides a point-in-time picture of park quality. Each park in the system (including undeveloped parks) were evaluated based on staff’s knowledge of facility condition. The condition assessment concludes that District 1 and 2 have the most parks that are considered to be in poor condition, meaning they are either not functional or have major facility damage. The developed parks contained in District 3 appear to be in the best overall shape when compared to other districts.

Survey participants were asked to indicate what they believe the Parks Department should focus on over the next five years. The three most selected were:

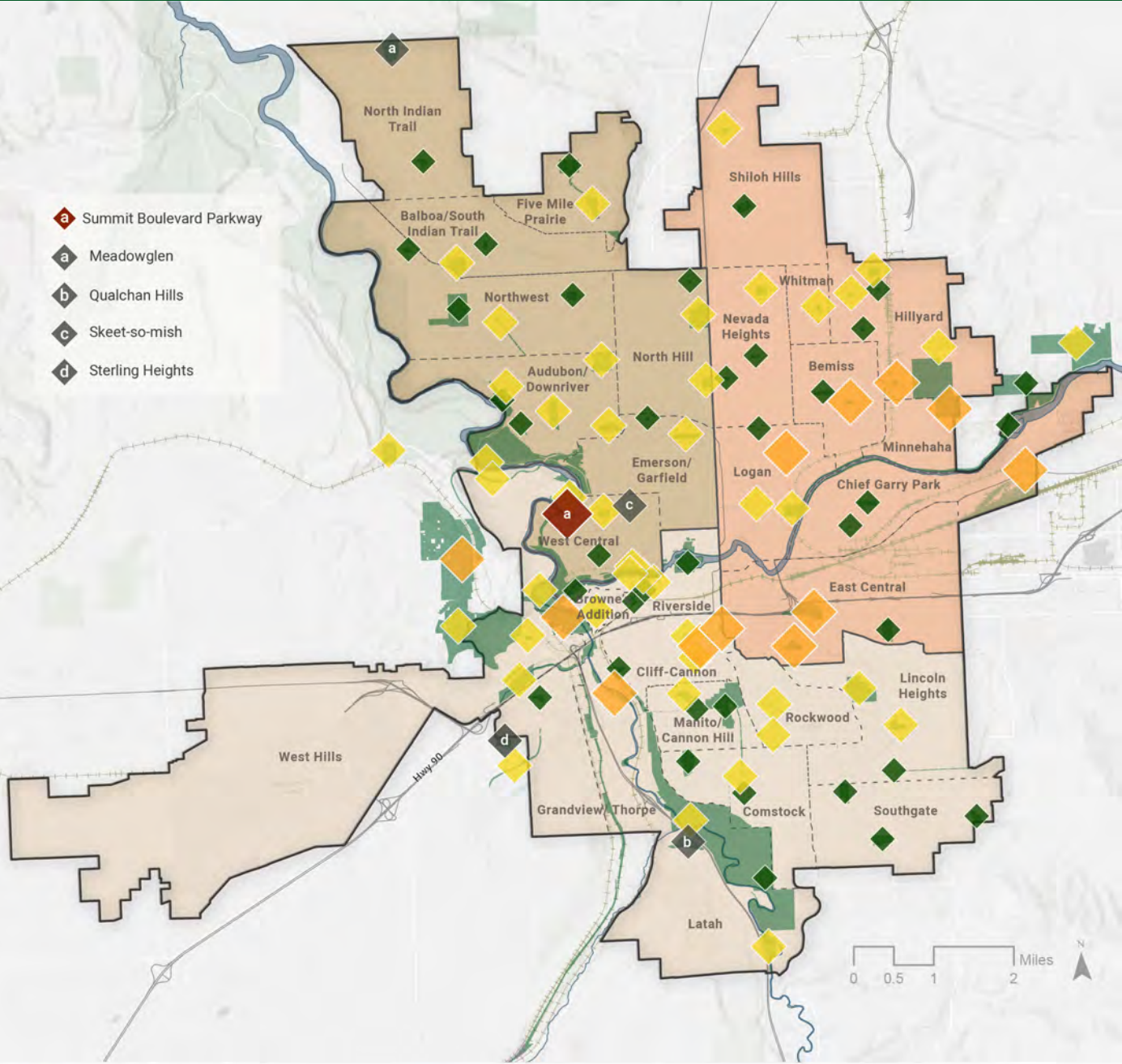
- 1. Give attention to maintenance and enhancement of park facilities
- 2. Focus investment on undeveloped City-owned properties
- 3. Expand the system and acquire new lands for parks and trails

Participants were asked to rate which districts have the highest need of park additions of enhancements. The breakdown of responses is represented below.

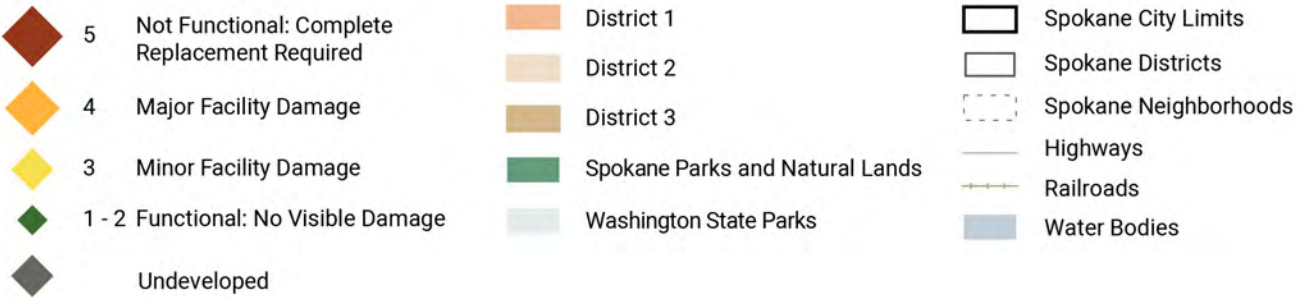




MAP 11: PARK CONDITION RATINGS



Park Condition Ratings



Source: City of Spokane Parks & Recreation, City of Spokane GIS data 2021, Spokane County GIS Data

4. ARE FACILITIES MEETING PROGRAM NEEDS?

PROGRAM OFFERINGS

The Parks Department provides a variety of recreational programming, including adult, youth, aquatic, community, arts and outdoor program series. Additionally, the Therapeutic Recreation Services programs are designed to ensure residents with disabilities can participate in parks programming. Arts programs are offered within the Corbin Arts Center, while aquatic programs are typically offered at the four outdoor city aquatic centers.

The number of recreational facilities available compared to the population helps understand how the Parks Department is serving the current population and fulfilling the needs based on projected growth. The National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) collects metrics from park and recreation agencies around the country to develop an annual Agency Performance Review. When assessed with other comparable communities:

- » **Spokane provides a significantly higher than typical level of service for outdoor swimming pools\*, playgrounds, soccer fields, and softball fields (youth and adult).**
- » **Spokane provides an average level of service for baseball facilities (youth and adult) and skate parks.**
- » **Spokane provides a lower level of service for dog parks, lacrosse fields, multi-purpose fields (unprogrammed fields), and outdoor multi-purpose sport courts (for tennis and pickleball).**

Adapting to recreation trends and fulfilling maintenance needs

It is critical to consider how recreational facilities and program offerings will keep pace with both the increasing population and changing demographics. Future facilities should be designed with flexibility in mind—both in terms of the types of recreation programs offered and accommodating revenue-generating opportunities such as rentals and concessions. This will help the City to be nimble and quickly respond to changing recreation trends and popular programs. The City should continue to support and advocate for quality maintenance and timely repairs of existing facilities, including courts and fields, to enhance their longevity, reduce closure times, and extend the time needed between renovations and replacements.

In particular, several tennis courts are currently out of service due to deferred maintenance. Maintenance frequency should be reduced with upgraded landscaping that requires less water and facility repair frequency should be increased to improve access to court sports. When renovations or repairs are made, court striping and design should encourage multiple uses on the same surface.

\*It should be noted that the level of service calculations do not take into account seasonal closures. Because Spokane’s aquatic offerings are all outdoors, the swim season is generally from late May to early September and notably shorter than those with year-round offerings. While the aquatics facilities are open in Spokane they receive very high levels of use.



# ENVIRONMENTAL AND FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

## 5. ARE WE MANAGING NATURAL LANDS TO MEET ENVIRONMENTAL GOALS?

### HOW ARE OUR NATURAL LANDS PERFORMING?

This section focuses on tactics to advance and support environmental protection on natural lands as well as methods to ensure financial stability for the Parks Department.

#### Promoting environmental sustainability in Spokane's natural lands

The City of Spokane has ambitious goals for environmental sustainability which are backed by resident support. The 2021 Spokane Climate Action Plan, outlined goals to protect the Spokane River and natural aquatic ecosystems and explore partnerships with regional organizations and agencies for environmental stewardship. These goals are in direct alignment with the Parks Department mission and goals laid out in this plan.

## HOW WELL ARE PARKS CURRENTLY FUNDED?

Map 12 shows park capital investments from the year 1999 through 2021. The park investment history contains funding from three sets of bond measures that were initiated in 1999, 2007 and 2014. These were voter approved ballot initiatives, created for specific park improvements. The park investment history also includes funding over the past five years from non-bond funding

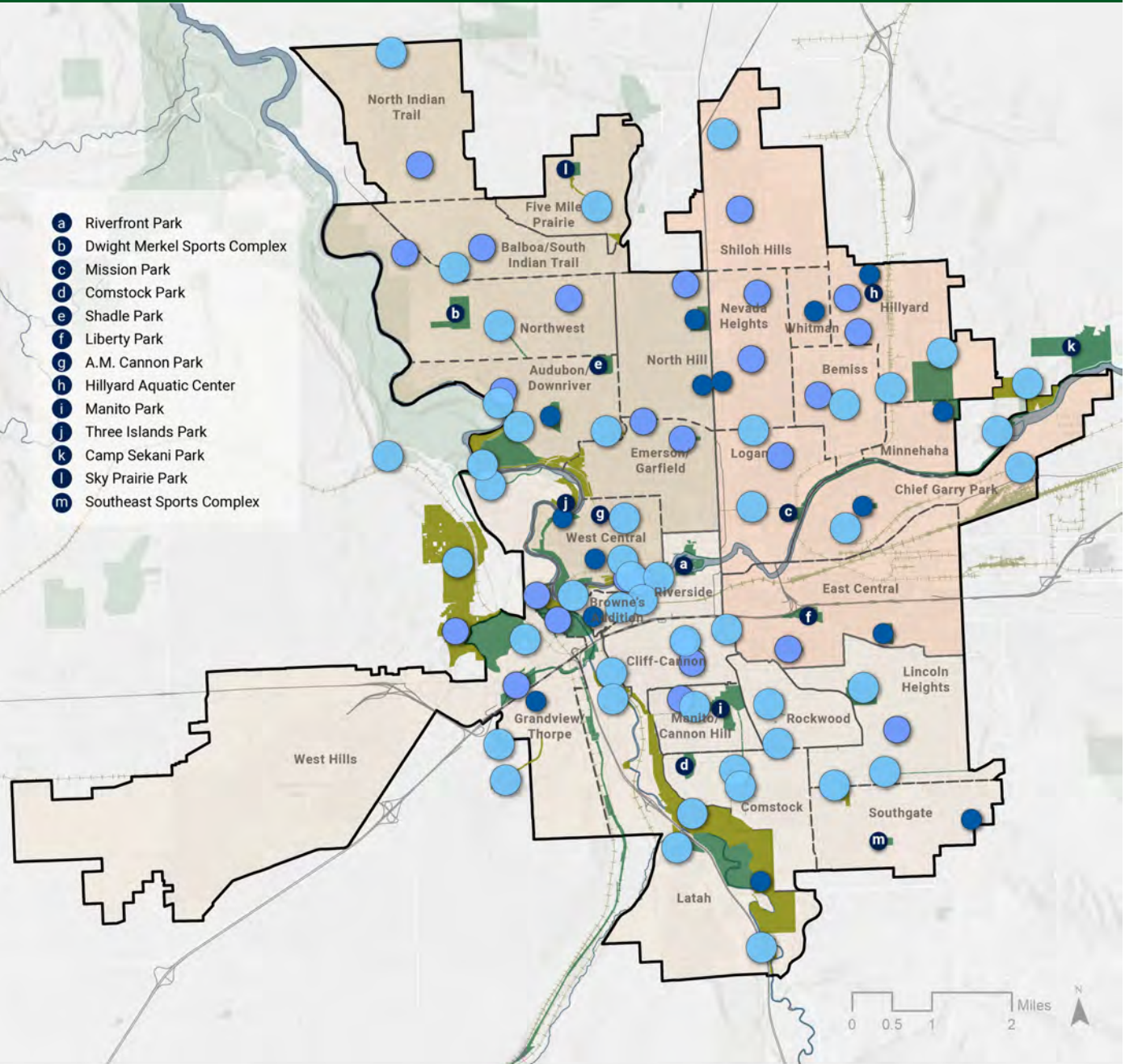
sources. While a smaller amount of money, the non-bond funding source paid for park improvements has helped fill gaps that are not eligible to be funded under program/project specific bond funding, such as playground replacements, maintenance needs, and planning efforts.

Eight percent of the City's general fund goes towards parks. However, over the past 20 years, a number of "enterprise funds" have been established, which are not considered part of the general fund. While these are not considered part of the general fund, they compete for tax dollars that normally are allocated to the general fund. The data represented in this report is a snapshot that illustrates what percentage of the total city funding (including enterprise funds) is spent on parks. Reviewing spending from 5, 10, and 20 years ago can illustrate trends over time.

### CAPITAL SPENDING

Revenue for the Spokane Parks and Recreation Department capital expenditures come from a variety of sources, including grants, federal funds, corporate partnerships and philanthropic groups and the City's Parks Division budget. About 70 percent of City funding comes from the City general fund (eight percent of general fund expenses) and the remaining 30 percent comes from program revenue. As outlined in Chapter 1, three bond initiatives passed between 1999 and 2014 have helped the Parks Department focus on major park renovations

MAP 12: PARK INVESTMENT HISTORY, 1999 - 2021



Source: City of Spokane Parks & Recreation, City of Spokane GIS data 2021, Spokane County GIS Data



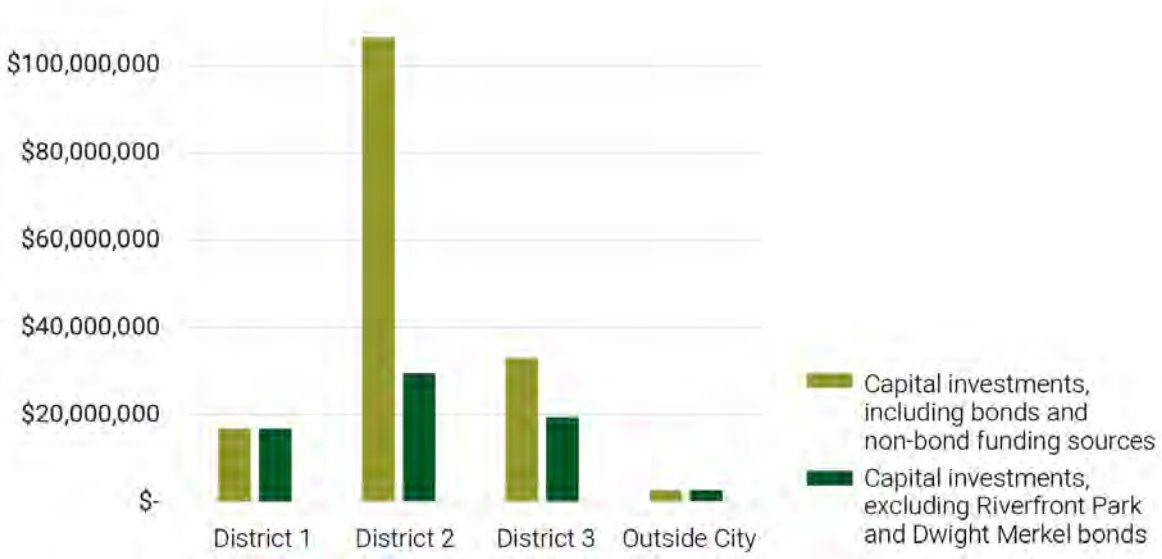
and expansions. Within the past four years (2017-2021), non-bond spending by the department for capital improvements has totaled \$18.7 million (approximately \$4.675 million when averaged annually); investments from bonds over the last 22 years has totaled \$133.6 million (approximately \$6 million when averaged annually).

\*Historic park investment data reflects three separate bond initiatives that were executed between 1999-2020 and non-bond spending that occurred only between 2017 and 2021. It can be assumed that non-bond spending occurred in parks between 1999 and 2017, however cannot be tracked with accuracy and is therefore excluded from this time line.

Figure 4 illustrates the distribution of spending across Spokane’s three council districts. Park investments made in District 2 are more than six times that of District 1 and three times

greater than District 2 over a 22 year period. It should be noted, however, that the major investment in Riverfront Park, a special use park that serves the entire city as well as tourists and regional visitors, is located in District 2. With investments of almost \$75 million in Riverfront Park between 2014-2020, and \$13 million in Dwight Merkel Sports Complex, the inclusion of those facilities in Figure 5 skews spending levels in District 2 and 3 upward. To account for this, shown in dark green are capital investments per district with the exclusion of Riverfront Park and Dwight Merkel Sports Complex. This data depicts greater spending in District 2 between 1999 and 2021, with less spending in Districts 1 and 3.

When excluding bond initiatives, capital investment spending data by council district between 2017 and 2021 illuminates that investments made in District 2 have exceeded



**Figure 6:** Capital Investments by Council District, 1999 - 2021 Source: City of Spokane. History of Park Investments, 1999-2021.

that of Districts 1 and 3 by 200 percent or more than \$4 million. Non-bond revenue sources include a combination of local taxes, County Conservation Futures excise tax funding, grants from Washington State Recreation Conservation Office (WA State RCO), or federal grants.

Investments made outside the City of Spokane have been for the expansion of Camp Sekani, a regional park that shares ownership with private landowners outside the city, and for the purchase of conserved natural lands. This spending was made possible through the Spokane County Conservation Futures Funding Program and reflects the Parks Department’s commitment to system expansion as well as the need to conserve in-tact natural resources in anticipation of Spokane’s growing population and associated land development pressures.

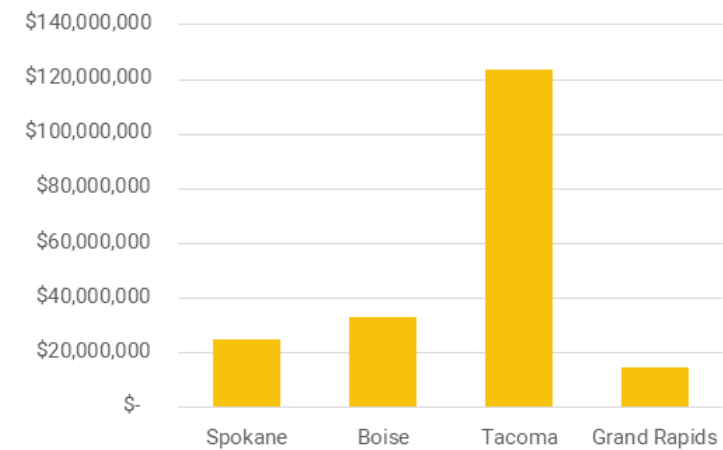
### OPERATIONAL BUDGET

The Parks Department had a total annual operating budget of \$24.6 million in 2021. Operational expenditures are paid for through the City Parks Division budget, which is sourced from the City’s general fund, which is sourced from both the City’s general fund (eight percent of the City’s general fund expenditures), and program revenue. Operational expenditures account for personnel, as well as grounds and building maintenance activities, recreation programming services and the general upkeep of the parks system. Operational budgets are spent system wide.

Benchmarking these numbers against Spokane’s comparable communities

indicates that Spokane’s operating budget is behind that of Boise, ID and Tacoma, WA, but better funded than Grand Rapids, MI.

Looking forward, 72 percent of residents noted in the citizen survey that the city should improve the frequency of cleaning, garbage removal, mowing and general upkeep, indicating that it could be appropriate for the Parks Department to invest in improving operations and maintenance on parklands.



**Figure 7:** Comparable Community Annual Operating Budgets. Source: NRPA PRORAGIS reports, 2021.



HIGHLIGHTING THERAPEUTIC RECREATION SERVICE

The Therapeutic Recreation Service (TRS) programs are designed for residents with mobility restrictions. TRS programs have been successful in the City and the demand is growing. It is both the Parks Department and participants’ wish to integrate the TRS program with the rest of the City-offered programs. Attendees want to be incorporated into the general population recreation programs rather than being placed into the “special” programs.

Currently, there are insufficient resources to allow a more seamless integration. The Parks Department lacks enough staff with the specific skills required to meet TRS participants’ needs, such as modifying a kayak/paddle boat to outfit one with physical disability. As demand increases, staff need more training to be able to serve all program attendees, regardless of their ability.

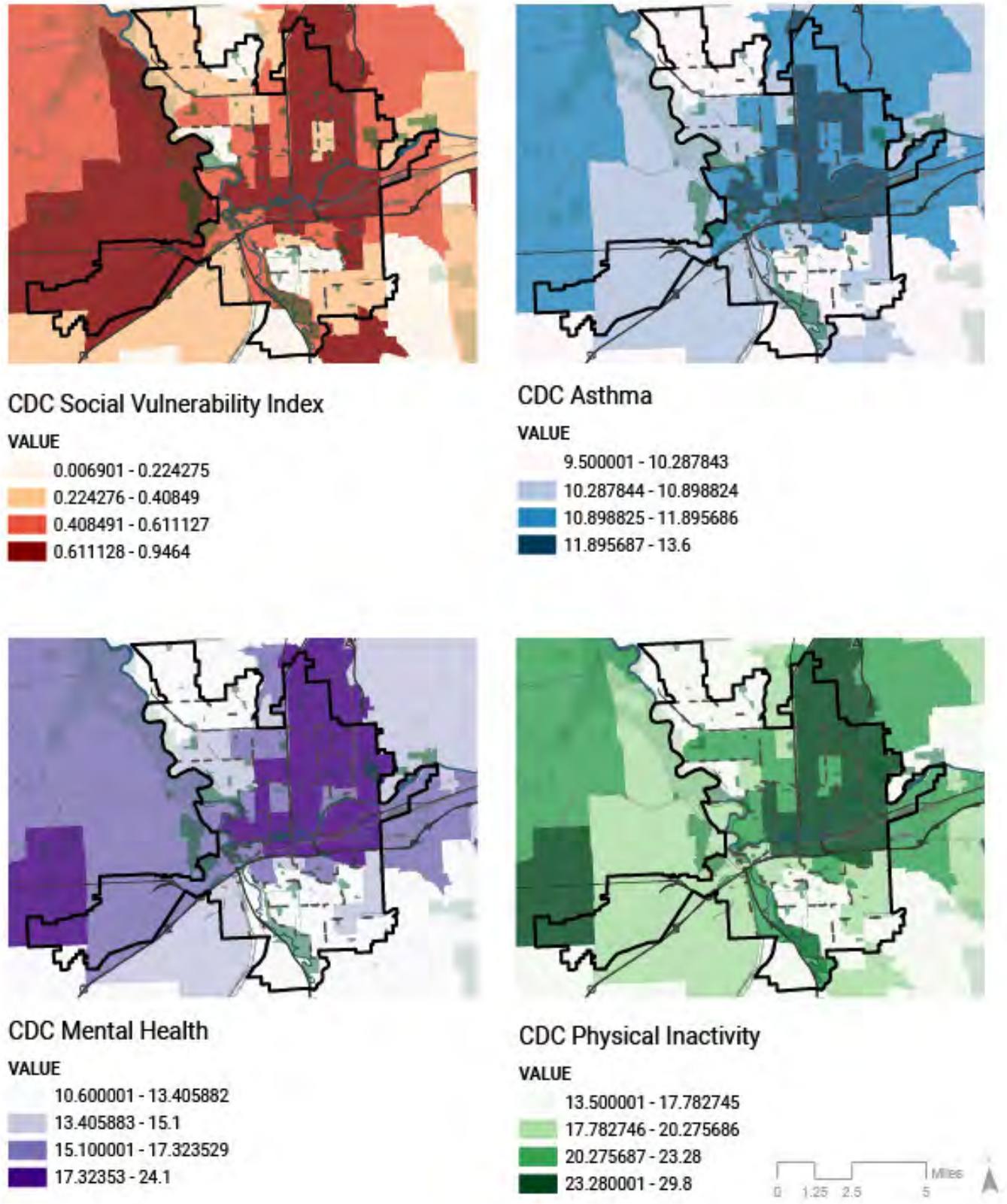


IS OUR SYSTEM EQUITABLE AND INCLUSIVE?

The Parks and Recreation Department is committed to the creation and maintenance of parks and recreation services that serve and uplift all residents of Spokane. With that in mind, the parks system evaluation concludes with an analysis of socioeconomic factors that can be both indicators and exacerbators of social vulnerability, as well as above average rates of asthma, populations who experience poor mental health and those who have low rates of physical inactivity (Map 13). These datasets collectively create a more comprehensive view of neighborhood dynamics and the social, economic and environmental factors that influence park access and utilization and, ultimately, are determinants of public health. These datasets are blended to create a composite map of “Equity Zones” that is used to guide recommendations for the plan (see Chapter 4 - Land).

Looking at the previous analyses related to the history of park investments per district and the distribution and quantity of park spaces, we understand that investments have not been made equally throughout the system. In particular, there are less park investments made in District 1. Likewise, the largest concentration of populations that are at risk for social and economic vulnerability are located largely in District 1. Findings from this analysis informs strategic investments and priorities for the Parks Department to address needs and improve equity within the parks system.

MAP 13: FACTORS OF SOCIOECONOMIC VULNERABILITY



Source: Center for Disease Control, 2020; U.S. Census, 2020; Environmental Protection Agency, 2020.



# OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVEMENT CHAPTERS

Chapters 3-6 contain plan recommendations which are organized by theme (below). Each theme includes goals, indicated by a letter, and each goal has objectives, indicated by a number. Strategies for each recommendation are highlighted in a box of the theme’s color.

## THEME - COLOR

Themes, which are organized by color, are the four over-arching categories for the plan recommendations and were developed based on community input. In the organizational hierarchy, themes are at the top.

## GOAL - LETTER

Goals are assigned a letter and indicate a something the Parks Department should strive for (e.g., A. Parks for All). The number of goals is different for each theme but all goals have corresponding objectives (e.g. Support ADA Accessibility).

## OBJECTIVES - NUMBER

In the organizational hierarchy of this document, objectives come after goals. They refer to ways that the Parks Department can achieve the stated goals.

## STRATEGIES - BOXED

Strategies refer to specific actionable steps the Parks Department can take to achieve the stated goals and objectives. They are easy-to-find in boxes that correlate to the color of their theme

## PLAN THEMES



### LAND - CHAPTER 3

The theme of land includes all physical park properties, programming, and facilities that take place on city park lands.



### WATER - CHAPTER 4

The theme of water includes activities, facilities, and programming in and around natural and manufactured water features including rivers, streams, swimming holes, pools, and splash pads.



### PEOPLE - CHAPTER 5

The theme of people includes goals and strategies related to how residents engage with and utilize parklands and programming.



### LEGACY - CHAPTER 6

The theme of legacy ensures that all goals and actions contribute to continuing Spokane’s heritage of renowned parks, recreation, and services.



Numerica SkyRide at Riverfront Park





# 3

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVEMENT: LAND

- Goal A. Serving the Under-resourced
- Goal B. Inland Northwest Living
- Goal C. Preserve our Wild





### CHAPTER 3. LAND

Three goals, all of which relate to what takes place on park lands, from preservation and conservation to accessible parks and trails, emerged from community input. The following three goals: Serving the Under-resourced, Inland Northwest Living, and Preserve our Wild, each encompass a different aspect of how park users engage with Spokane’s parks and natural lands. Objectives and strategies that support each goal are included.

### THEME: LAND

Goal A: Serving the Under-resourced	
Objective 1.	Address Geographic Gaps In Park Provision
Objective 2.	Invest In Equity Zones
Objective 3.	Focus On Neighborhood And Community Parks
Goal B: Inland Northwest Living	
Objective 1.	Offerings Reflect Our Mountain Landscape And Respond To Our Recreation And Park Use Trends
Objective 2.	Trails For Park Access
Goal C: Preserve Our Wild	
Objective 1.	Initiate Framework For Natural Land Acquisition Decision-Making
Objective 2.	Further Regional Partnerships For Land Acquisitions.
Objective 3.	Initiate Interdisciplinary Partnerships For Land Management.
Objective 4.	Create Dashboard For Monitoring And Reporting.
Objective 5.	Enhance Our Natural Lands With Projects To Restore Ecologies And Build Resilience To Natural Disasters.



“Among the medium-sized proposed parks, this [neighborhood] park would be one of the most important in order to secure an equitable distribution of park benefits”

- 1913 Olmsted Report

### GOAL A. SERVING THE UNDER-RESOURCED

Serving the Under-resourced highlights the need to improve park access and quality equitably throughout the city. With most recent investments in neighborhood and community parks occurring in 1999, many are nearing the end of their life cycle and are overdue for improvements. Serving the Under-resourced means prioritizing needed investments located in equity zones. (Equity zones, which are defined by history of investments and demographics, are further discussed in Chapter 2). Improving access also includes adding trails that connect to parks and recreation opportunities and developing parks on vacant properties to increase the number of households within walking distance of a park.

Table 7: Goal for address gaps 10 minute walkshed per district

	ACREAGE	NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS	NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS OUTSIDE WALKSHED	PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLDS OUTSIDE WALKSHED	FUTURE GOAL
District 1	458	32,267	2,250	9%	5%
District 2	1,680	29,380	4,161	18%	15%
District 3	748	33,466	4,163	14%	10%
Outside City Boundary	968	Not defined due to lack of boundaries	Not defined due to lack of boundaries	Not defined due to lack of boundaries	Not defined due to lack of boundaries

#### Objective 1. Address Geographic Gaps in Park Provision

The following neighborhoods have the highest percentage or number of households that are not within a 10 minute walkshed. Findings are organized by district and neighborhood. See Table 7 for a breakdown of 10 minute walksheds by district.

**District 1** has a larger percentage of households with parks within walking distance of their homes, but the smallest total acreage of parks. Some of the park provision is supplemented with school properties in the central part of the district or the Bemiss Neighborhood. Quality of some of these parks are less desirable and they are used less. Certainly walkshed is not the only measure of park need.

**Shiloh Hills:** The Shiloh Hills Neighborhood in the northwestern part of the city currently lacks adequate park access. Consider acquiring land east of North Nevada Street, near multi-family housing units.

**District 2** has substantially more park acreage than the other districts, with 43 parks in this district compared to 28 parks in both Districts 1 and 3. Strategies to increase access should therefore be centered upon the addition of infrastructure that supports comfortable walk conditions to existing parks.

**Lincoln Heights:** Lincoln Park, Underhill Park, Thornton Murphy Park and the Lincoln Heights Elementary School are located within the central or western side of the Lincoln Heights neighborhood, however those living on the eastern edge of the neighborhood lacks park access within a short walk. Those living east of South Ray Street face barriers in crossing this high-capacity roadway to access parkland.

**Comstock and Southgate:** Although residents living on the western edge of Comstock and eastern edge of Southgate neighborhoods currently lack park access within a 10 minute walk, a fifteen to twenty-minute walk from this neighborhood affords access to High Drive Bluff Park with an extensive trail system and premier views. The suburban nature of these neighborhoods contribute to park access lacking more than an actual deficiency of park space provided.

Additionally, the Manito Country Club, which offers private outdoor recreational opportunities is located in the Comstock neighborhood, providing access to nearby residents willing to join the club.

**Latah/Hangman:** The Latah/Hangman neighborhood is comprised of more recent residential developments within the City of Spokane. On the southwestern most portion of town, this neighborhood is separated from the rest of Spokane by Highway 195. While residents likely enjoy the natural setting afforded by surrounding forested land and views of Hangman Creek, the neighborhood currently lacks a city-owned park property. There is a privately maintained park with a playground, sport court and lawn. Access to nearby High Drive Bluff Park is provided by a short drive.

**District 3** is a high growth area of Spokane, with recent residential developments stretching to the northern portions of the city. Park provisioning has not necessarily kept up with new residential developments due to the lack of a development fee tied to growth.

**North Indian Trail:** The development of the Meadowglen Community Park will significantly improve access for the North Indian Trail neighborhood.

**Five Mile Prairie:** The Five Mile Prairie neighborhood is a newer residential area within the City of Spokane that is not fully built out. There are many vacant properties located in a patchwork fashion within this largely single-family neighborhood. As the area continues to subdivide and planned residential developments are proposed, the city should be equipped to plan and develop a new park property to service this growing part of the city.

**Northwest:** The residences that currently lack access to parkland are within close proximity to the Dwight Merkel Sports Complex, BMX Bike Track, and Fairmount Memorial Park, however the curved streets of the suburban style residential development coupled with a large tree buffer do not create an environment that promotes residents walking to access these facilities.



“When we have gone more often and more deeply into the enormous benefit which parks are to the health of the people of the city, we come to realize not only the importance of having parks conveniently accessible, which is a very obvious requirement, but also the reason why they should be large”

-1913 Olmsted Report



GOAL A: SERVING THE UNDER-RESROUCED

## STRATEGIES

### Objective 1. Address Geographic Gaps In Park Provision

- » Develop parks on vacant lands to increase the number of households with a park within walking distance.
- » Develop one additional park in District 1 (east of newly constructed north-south freeway) to increase park access for residents in these neighborhoods.
- » Consider additional east-west pathway connections that support residents in District 1 to reach nearby parks located west of the north-south freeway.
- » In District 2, add pathway connections from residential areas to existing parks.
- » Develop future Meadowglen Park property in District 3 to service residents in the northwest portion of the district who currently do not have adequate park access.
- » Acquire land for development for a future pocket park within the east central or Lincoln Heights neighborhoods east of South Ray Street.

### Objective 2. Investing in Equity Zones

Layering in information related to park conditions, identification of demographics that indicate different needs, park distribution gaps, and a history of investments, equity zones have been identified that indicate geographic areas that investment should be prioritized (Map 14).

Drawing upon the 10 minute walkshed analysis and layering in information related to park conditions and a history of investments, we will have a firmer understanding of neighborhoods that are currently lacking park access.



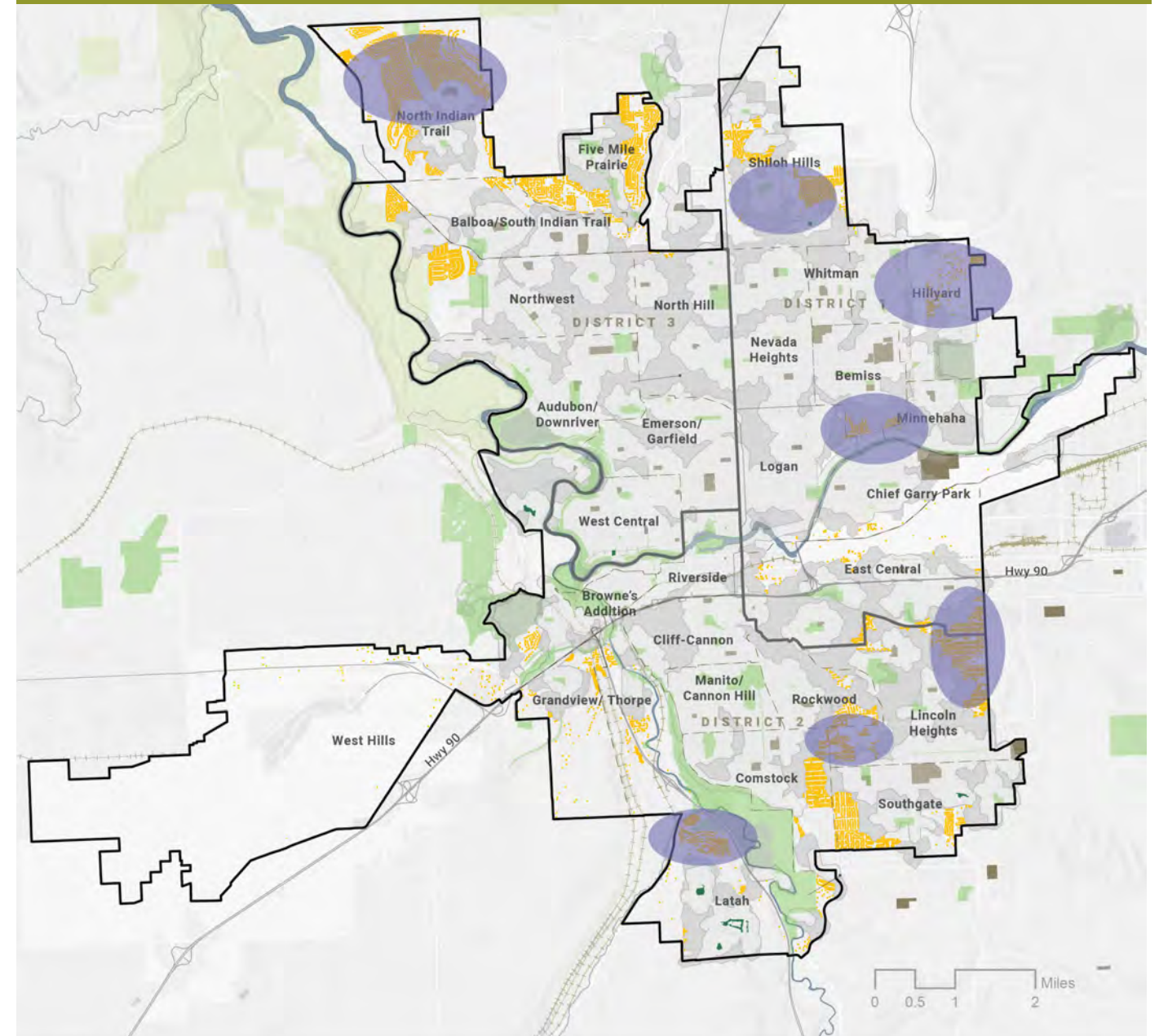
GOAL A: SERVING THE UNDER-RESOURCED

## STRATEGIES

Objective 2. Invest In Equity Priority Zones As Shown In Map 14 (next page)

- » Prioritize investments in improving parks in Equity Zones (defined by history of investments, conditions, and demographics).
- » Invest in types of recreations and activities that Equity Zones are interested in. See Map 17: Inland Northwest Living.
- » Explore revising citywide street tree maintenance program to ensure proper maintenance does not adversely burden community members and/or result in inadequate urban tree canopy coverage.

MAP 14: POTENTIAL OPPORTUNITY AREAS FOR NEW PARKS



### LEGEND

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: purple; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Opportunity Areas for New Parks           | <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: green; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Golf Courses |
| <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: yellow; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Homes Located Outside 10-minute Park Walk | <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Spokane City Limits                   |
| <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: lightgray; border: 1px solid black;"></span> 10-Minute Walkshed                     | <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Spokane Districts                     |
| <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: white; border: 1px solid black;"></span> 5-Minute Walkshed                          | <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; border: 1px dashed black;"></span> Spokane Neighborhoods                |
| <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: brown; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Public Schools                             | <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Highways                              |
| <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: lightgreen; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Spokane Parks and Natural Lands       | <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Railroads                             |
| <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: yellowgreen; border: 1px solid black;"></span> State Parks                          | <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: blue; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Water Bodies  |
| <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: darkgreen; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Private Unit Development Parks         |  |

Source: Design Workshop Analysis 2021, City of Spokane GIS data 2021, Spokane County GIS Data



Objective 3. Focus on Neighborhood and Community Parks

Neighborhood and community parks and outdoor sport courts were indicated as having the greatest need by Spokane survey respondents when asked about physical improvements. These parks are centrally located in neighborhoods with safe walking and bicycle access. Neighborhood parks are intended to provide both active and passive recreation for residents enjoying short daily leisure periods but should provide for most intensive use by children, family groups, and senior citizens. Community parks are larger and serve a wider audience. They offer diverse recreational opportunities depending on site suitability and community need. They may include areas suited to facilities such as athletic complexes and large swimming pools, natural features (such as bodies of water), and support walking, viewing, picnicking and outdoor recreation. They are centrally located in neighborhoods with safe walking and bicycling access and are adjacent to schools when possible. Outdoor sport courts can be single- or multi-use for tennis, pickleball, basketball, and other sports and games.

Many park facilities have likely reached the extent of their lifespan as 1999 was the last time neighborhood parks received comprehensive updates.



Residents added a basketball hoop on the street adjacent to Wildhorse Park



GOAL A: SERVING THE UNDER-RESOURCED

STRATEGIES

Objective 3. Focus on Neighborhood and Community Parks

- » Prioritize investments in historically neglected or under-resourced neighborhoods through a Neighborhood Parks Initiative.
- » Develop a Community Parks Initiative to complete a comprehensive investment in smaller parks. The investment includes capital improvements, expanded recreation programming, increased maintenance and gardening staff, and capacity building in partnership with local community groups.
- » Couple neighborhood and community park improvements with environmental protection tactics that address climate change impacts. On existing developed parklands, such as community and neighborhood parks, the City can implement landscaping changes that convert existing spaces that require large park resources, such as unused turf lawns, to drought tolerant plantings, pollinator gardens and low maintenance vegetation.
- » In park buildings, the Parks Department can support Spokane’s Climate Action Strategy by incorporating energy efficiency and new energy technologies and building practices in new park facilities and infrastructure, while retrofitting eligible existing facilities using LEED certified and similar performance standards.
- » Generate strategy to improve restroom availability and preferred methods for altering or replacing restrooms to improve ADA accessibility.



Kids playing flag football at Dwight Merkel Sports Complex

WHAT WE HEARD:  
NEIGHBORHOOD AND COMMUNITY PARKS

Residents of Districts 2 and 3 were more likely to have used neighborhood parks than residents of District 1

94% of respondents have used a neighborhood park

67% of respondents feel that neighborhood parks and picnic areas could use improvement

73% of respondents felt it was “very important” or “essential” that new neighborhood parks are built on land the city already owns

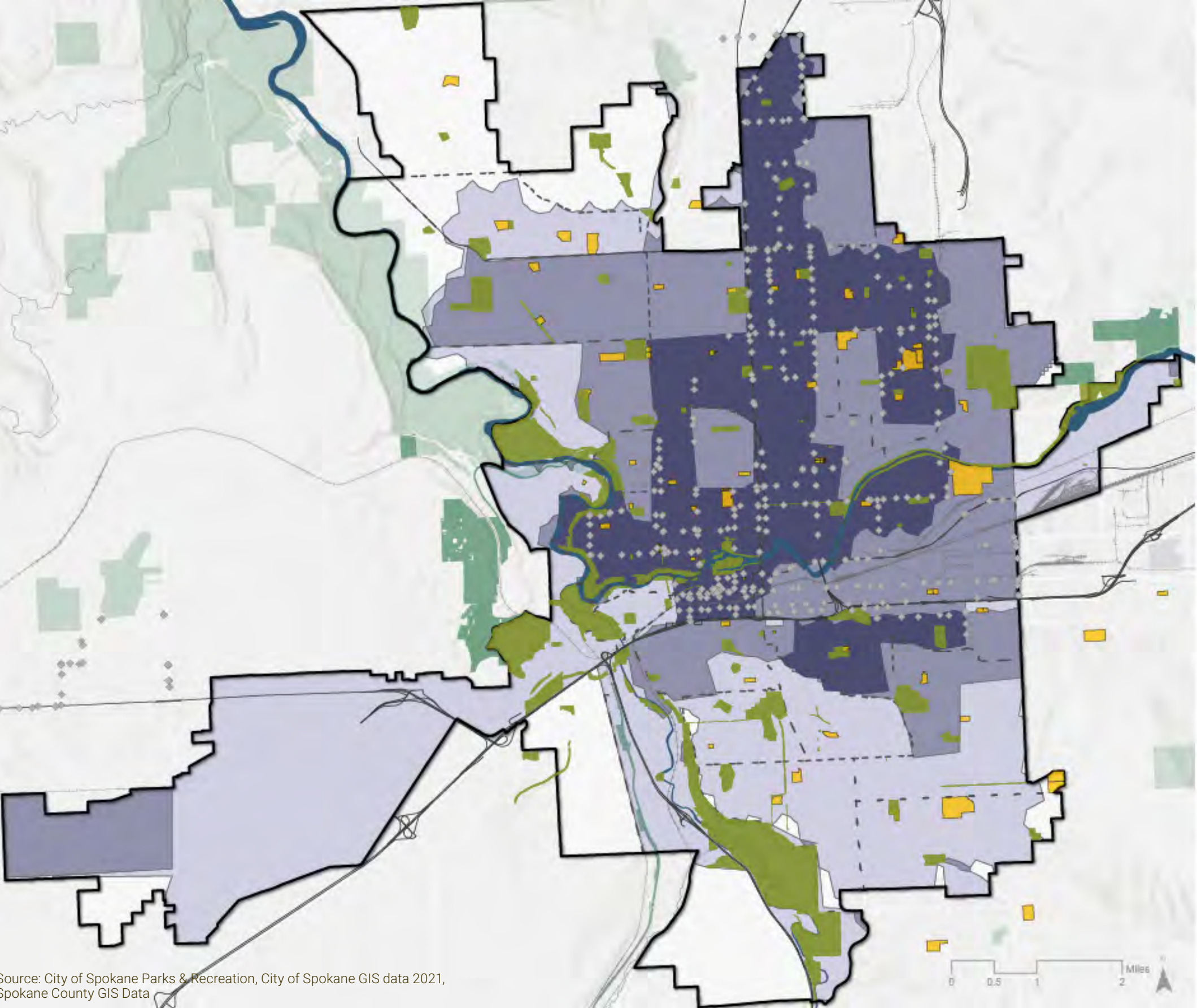
“Build Meadowglen Park, with full park amenities for families including play structures, splash pads, walking trails and tennis courts. There is no park that is within a 10 minute walking distance for this neighborhood, so it would be great if this is developed.”

Source: Parks and Natural Lands Survey, 2021 (Appendix C)





MAP 15: EQUITY PRIORITY ZONES



LEGEND

**Social and Environmental Equity Zones**

- 300 Highest Equity Priority
- 200
- 100
- 0 Lowest Equity Priority

- Transit Stops
- Public Schools
- Spokane Parks and Natural Lands
- State Parks
- Spokane City Limits
- Spokane Neighborhoods
- Highways
- Railroads
- Water Bodies

**VARIABLES INCLUDED IN THE ANALYSIS:**

**Social and Environmental Equity Zones:**

- Population Density
- Housing Density
- CDC Social Vulnerability Index
- Asthma health prevalence
- Mental health distress
- Physical inactivity

**Other Variables:**

- Transit stops
- Public schools
- Spokane parks and natural lands

Source: City of Spokane Parks & Recreation, City of Spokane GIS data 2021, Spokane County GIS Data





Adventure Park Rope Course

## GOAL B. INLAND NORTHWEST LIVING

Spokane residents noted in surveys that it is important for parks to reflect and highlight the assets of the Inland Northwest, including the mountain landscape and local recreation trends. As the center of the Inland Northwest Region, Spokane is home to breathtaking mountains, rivers, ravines, forests and other natural features that work together to create a natural playground.

### Objective 1. Offerings Reflect Our Mountain Landscape And Respond To Our Recreation And Park Use Trends

It is important to reflect the culture and lifestyle of Spokane residents, who value spending time outdoors, with their dogs, using hiking and biking trails and facilities such as skate parks and pump tracks, playing in nature and gathering with friends and family in natural settings. The strategies were developed using data from the statistically valid survey and feedback from residents at community workshops and trends and analysis of park levels of service.



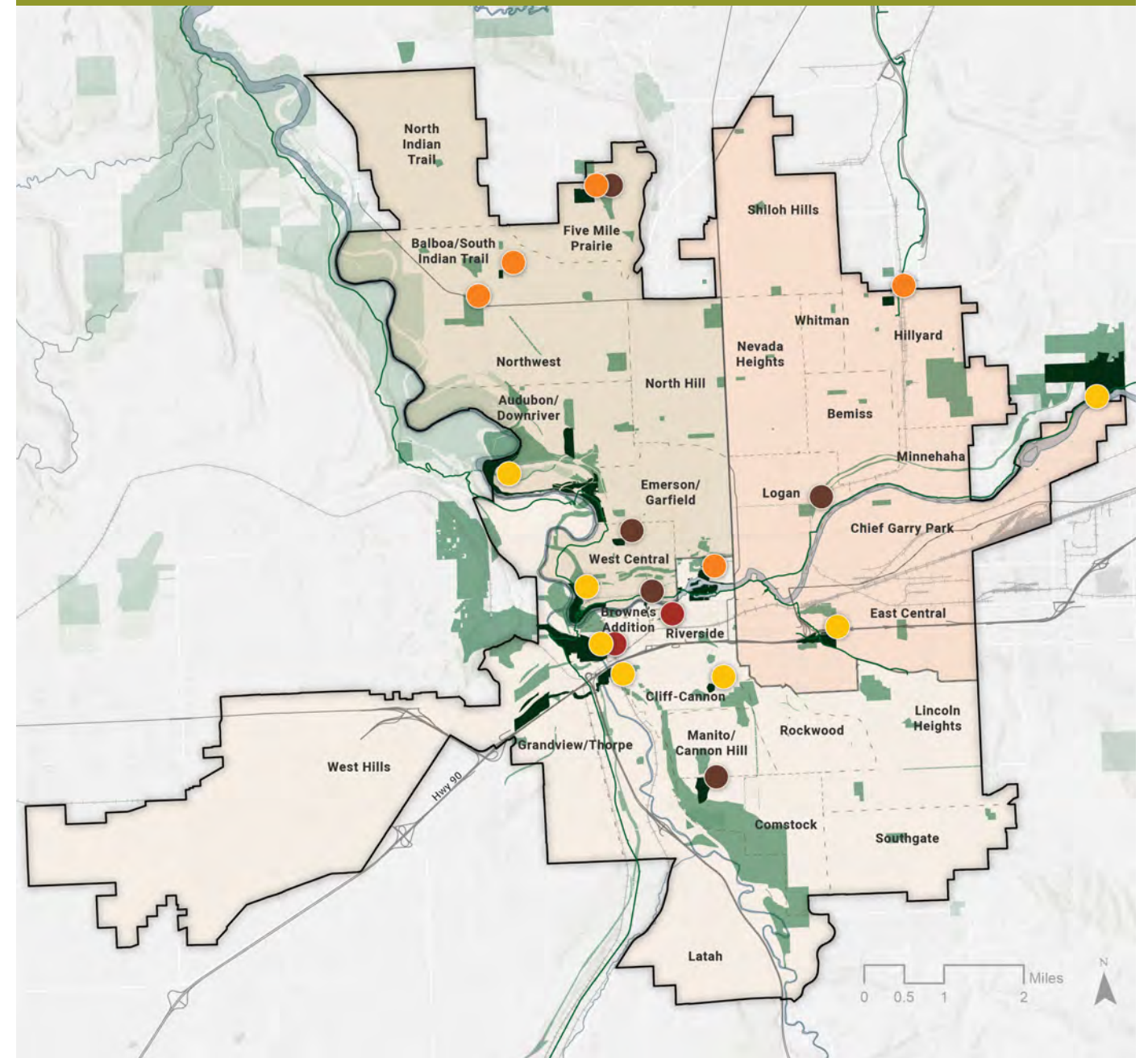
#### GOAL B: INLAND NORTHWEST LIVING

### STRATEGIES

Objective 1. Offerings Reflect Our Mountain Landscape And Respond To Our Recreation And Park Use Trends

- » **Dog parks:** Complete planned study (2022) to locate off-leash dog parks city-wide, identifying up to 10 potential sites.
- » **Gathering spaces:** Greater investment should be made to providing places for gathering like plazas, event spaces, pavilions with grills and seating areas and community programming like outdoor concerts.
- » **Disc golf:** Efforts to advance this popular sport involve creating advanced courses as well as investments in amenities to support hosting regional tournaments, such as adequate parking facilities that service premier courses.
- » **Pickleball:** When renovating or repairing existing facilities, court striping and design should encourage multiple uses, including pickleball, on the same surface, further enhancing availability. Evaluate potential of constructing centrally-located regional pickleball complex at existing special use facility to draw larger events.
- » **Biking and skating facilities:** In addition to special use parks and zones, there is a need for more dedicated bike trails, bike lanes and soft surface trails more evenly distributed throughout the city for recreation and commuting. A full list of proposed trails and supporting strategies can be found in Chapter 4.
- » **Nature play:** When making upgrades to existing playgrounds, there are opportunities to incorporate play features that are made from or mimic the natural environment, such as trees, stumps, logs, boulders, water, plants, sand, ropes, bridges and tree houses.
- » **Winter activities:** Golf courses, which often go unused during winter, could serve as spaces for winter activities like cross-country skiing, sledding, and snowshoeing. The City should pilot winter recreation programs at golf courses.

## MAP 16: EXISTING SPOKANE PARK SYSTEM AMENITIES



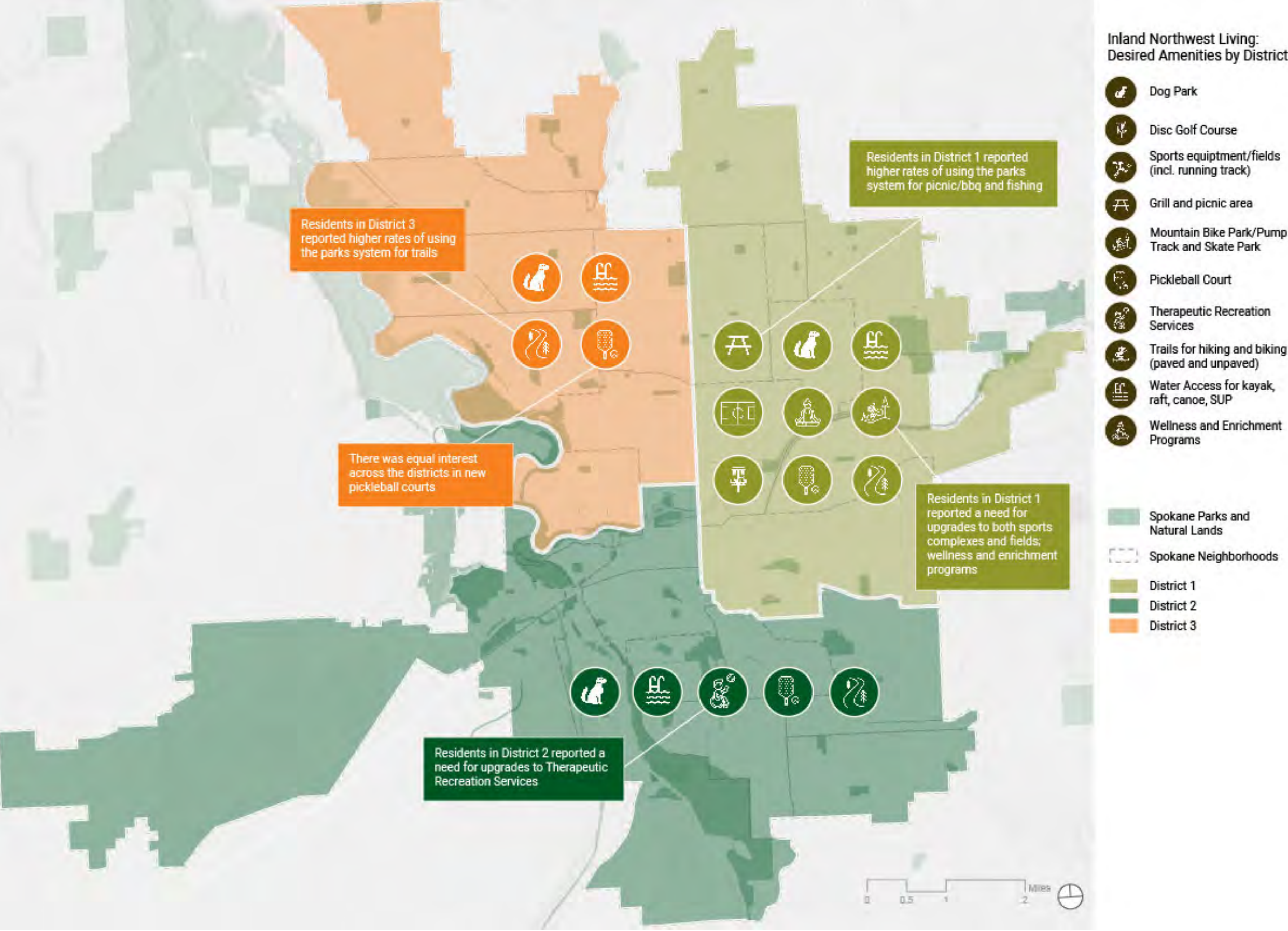
### LEGEND

- |                                   |                         |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| ● Disc Golf Courses               | □ Spokane City Limits   |
| ● Biking and Skating Facilities   | □ Spokane Neighborhoods |
| ● Dog Parks                       | — Highways              |
| ● Pickleball Courts               | — Railroad              |
| ■ Parks with Amenities            | — Water Lines           |
| ■ Spokane Parks and Natural Lands | ■ District 1            |
| ■ State Parks                     | ■ District 2            |
|                                   | ■ District 3            |

Source: City of Spokane GIS data 2021, Spokane County GIS Data



MAP 17: DESIRED AMENITIES BY DISTRICT





## PUBLIC COMMENT

“The trails deserve attention from the city in a comprehensive way. What trails need the most love? Where should signs be placed? What trails need to be de-commissioned? [Which] trails need better access.”

### Objective 2. Trails for Park Access

Trails are wildly popular in Spokane, with 96 percent of respondents in the statistically valid survey indicating they have used the trail system for walking, running, or hiking and 88 percent of respondents indicating that providing recreation trails and greenways is “essential” or “very important” aspect of natural lands programming. Residents indicated a need for improved connectivity between existing trails and park lands.

Sixty-nine percent of respondents use parks and natural areas for walking and hiking trails. Among the top list of improvements for the parks and natural lands system is to improve trail heads on natural lands and to add unpaved trails for hiking. 183 geographically referenced comments collected through the planning process presented the idea of a new trail, indicated a trail maintenance need or voiced an appreciation for an existing trail.

Beacon Hill, which has been envisioned as a park since 1908, is one of the largest undeveloped ridge lines in Spokane. It is a popular destination for runners, hikers, mountain bikers, and disc golfers. Many residents would like to see the park be city-owned and highlighted for the asset that it is.

The Latah Valley Hangman Creek corridor and Fish Lake Trail gap between Government Way and the Centennial Trail both represent locations in need of additional trail development. Previous studies have been completed in both of these reaches and should be utilized in developing additional trails and trail connections in these area specifically.

There is a need to better define unpaved trails. Many social, or unmanaged, trails have developed as a result of a lack of clear wayfinding or signage. These trails are created when people leave a defined trail and can lead to environmental degradation by fragmenting natural lands, wildlife displacement and soil compaction and vegetative trampling.



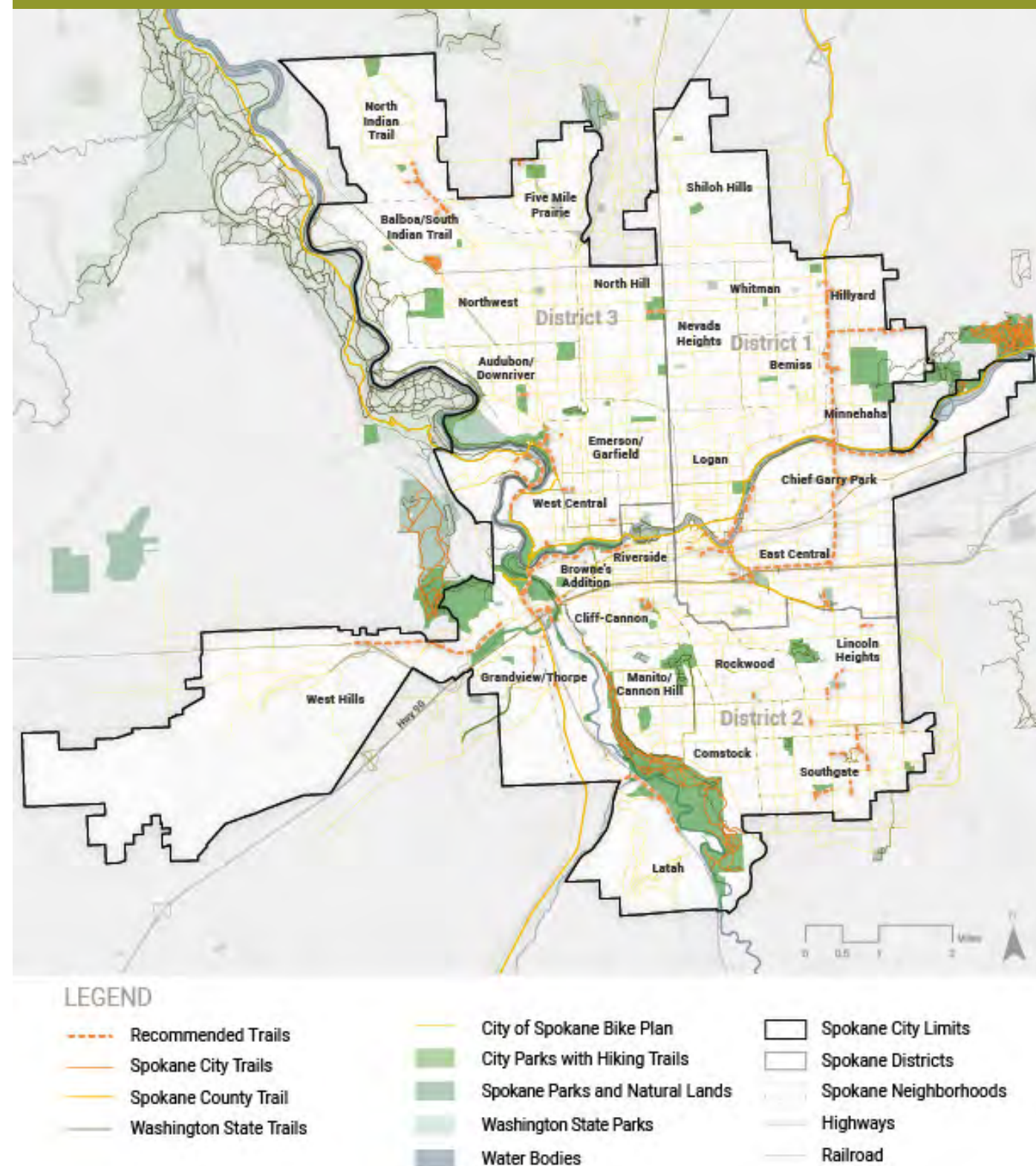
## GOAL B: INLAND NORTHWEST LIVING

### STRATEGIES

#### Objective 2. Trails for Park Access

- » Add trails that connect residences, schools, and places with a high concentration of people to parks and recreation.
- » Support and partner for the development of trails, many of which are suggested in the City of Spokane’s Transportation Master Plan.
- » To support a cohesive trails system throughout the city, implement standards for trail designs that include trail characteristics, management best practices for environmental protection, and signage and wayfinding guidelines (Figure 8).
- » Develop standards for trail heads that promotes them as a full-service stop, providing users with signage and maps, trash cans, rest rooms and bike maintenance tools.
- » Develop a trail maintenance plan for open spaces.
- » Invest in a comprehensive city trail map. Currently, there are over 170 miles of both hard and soft trails, and the number of trails increase every year. When the City does not have the trails properly mapped and identified, they cannot properly direct people to different trails by use (bike trails, dedicated loops, dogs-allowed, wide enough for strollers, etc.). A properly recorded trail map will help ensure accessibility.

### MAP 18: SPOKANE PARK SYSTEM TRAILS

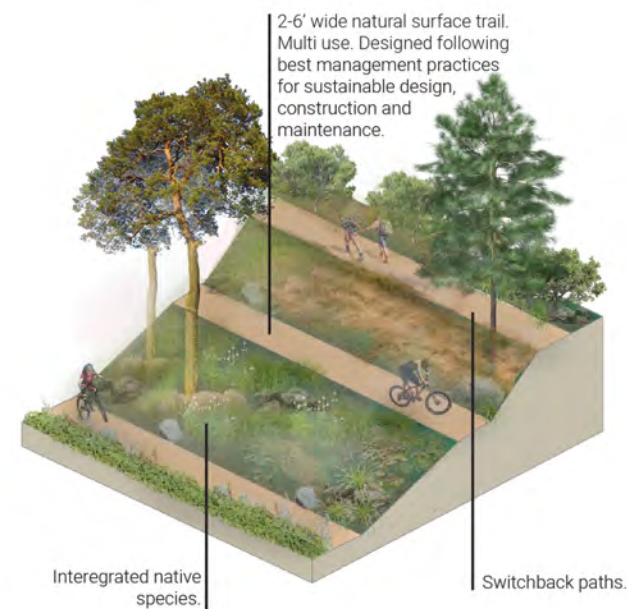


Source: City of Spokane Comprehensive Master Plan, 2017



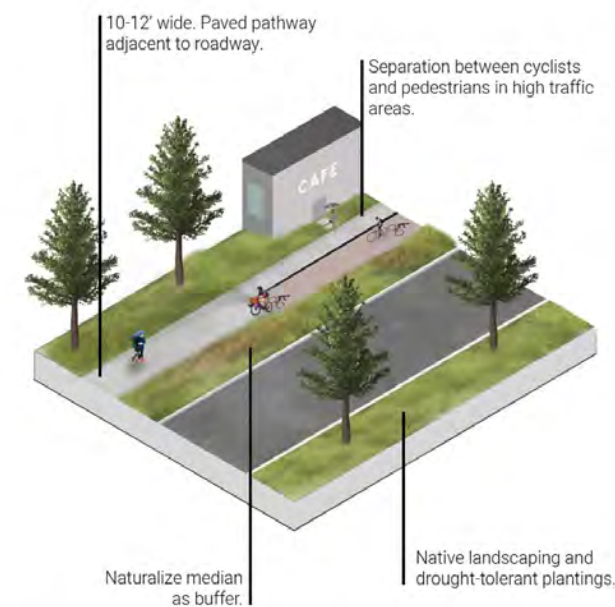
# TRAIL TYPOLOGIES

Figure 8: Trail Typologies



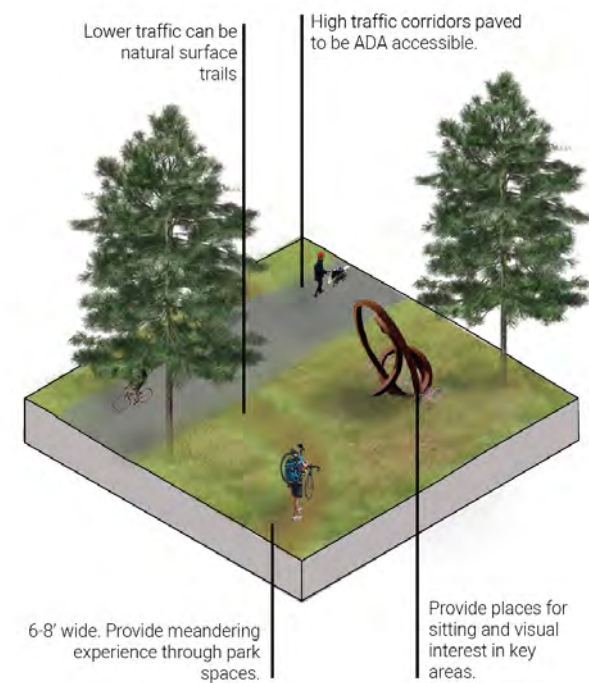
## Single Track Trail

2-3' wide natural surface trail. Multi use (hiking or biking). Designed following best management practices for sustainable design, construction and maintenance.



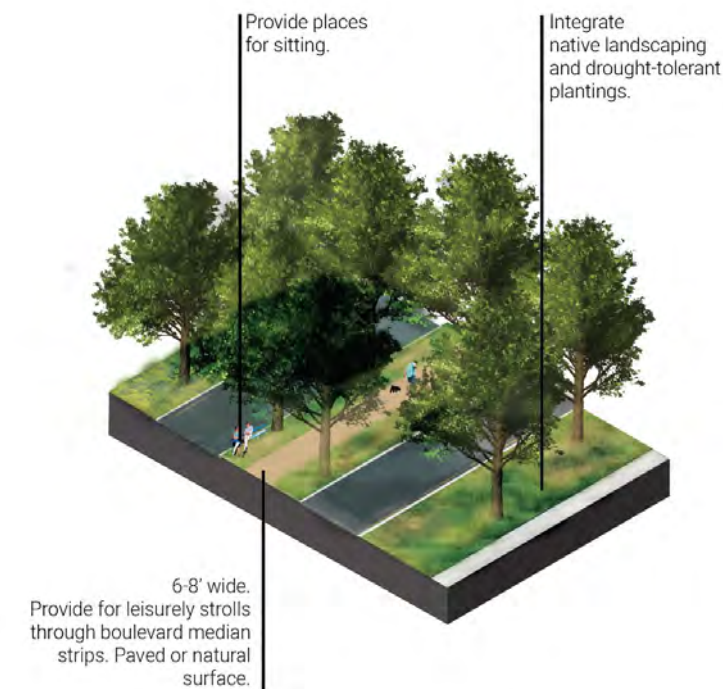
## Class 1 Trail

10-12' wide. Paved pathway adjacent to roadway Separated shared use path.



## Park Pathway

6-8' wide. Provide meandering experience through park spaces. High traffic corridors paved to be ADA accessible; lower traffic can be natural surface trails. Provide places for sitting and visual interest in key areas.



## Parkway Boulevard Trails

6-8' wide. Provide for leisurely strolls through boulevard median strips. Paved or natural surface, integrating native landscaping and drought-tolerant plantings. Provide places for sitting.



PUBLIC  
COMMENTS

“Keep [Hamblen Park] the way it is - wild and unfenced. The small trails through the trees are a popular spot for kids to ride bikes.”

“Robust plans of management of our parks/ natural spaces that supported by strong partnerships... a River Vision Plan that protects and helps people access our Spokane River corridor(s) natural spaces in a safe and healthy way.”



Trail in natural land area. Source: Spokane County

GOAL C. PRESERVE OUR WILD

Preserve our Wild prioritizes acquiring natural areas and managing land for improved environmental quality. With 1,643 acres preserved within the parks system as “Natural Lands,” the residents of Spokane are afforded nearby access to settings that feel as if they are miles away in the hinterlands. Natural lands, properties that are preserved and maintained in their natural state and help preserve significant views and provide wildlife sanctuaries, are cherished by the residents of Spokane and were noted time and again as assets to preserve during the planning process.

Natural lands provide and support opportunities for passive recreation through trails, interpretive facilities, historic and cultural exhibits, nature observation, photography, orienteering, kayaking, canoeing, floating, fishing, and off-trail equestrian and bicycle use. These properties may also support scientific research.

The Olmsted Plan considered the preservation of natural lands to be the “first duty” of the Board of Park Commissioners in order to “secure the land for several large parks as soon as may be, so that the existing opportunities for preserving beautiful natural landscape, conveniently accessible by the mass of people, may not be lost by the spread of subdivisions and city improvements.” Portions of the natural parks proposed by the Olmsted Plan exist today; properties such as the 400-acre Palisades Park, the 147-acre Upriver Park, and the rocky outcrops in Minnehaha Park (community park) are found on the western and eastern edges of the city, respectively.

Public support for conservation, preservation, and protection of natural lands is overwhelming. The City’s current natural lands could be managed and enhanced for improved environmental performance and build resilience to natural disasters. Within developed parks, strides towards re-wilding can be made through turf grass being replaced with more native and drought tolerant vegetation, pollinator gardens, and applying design principals to encourage nature play. Additionally, the community recognizes the importance of continuing to conserve lands to link and create contiguous green network



Bald Eagle at Tubbs Hill trail just outside of downtown Coeur D’Alene.

Source: Bureau of Land Management / flickr

with goals around wildlife habitat preservation, conserving and enhancing vegetation quality and water quality enhancement. Acquisition of lands for these purposes needs to be strategic to balance the need for additional affordable housing provision in the community and direct conservation to the locations most beneficial towards environmental and management goals. A concept to direct priorities for acquisition is provided here that is informed by a high-level evaluation of the most valuable assets.

Objective 1. Initiate Framework For Natural Land Acquisition Decision Making

Map 19: Priority Areas for Conservation supports an open space acquisition strategy that incorporates environmental considerations for wildlife, water, and scenic views as well as factors that determine ease of acquisition and strategies to address network fragmentation. See Appendix E for more information about the evaluation and factors that are included in this composite map.



GOAL C: PRESERVE OUR WILD

STRATEGIES

Objective 1. Initiate Framework For Natural Land Acquisition Decision-Making

- » Create acquisition plan to prioritize parcels that link and create contiguous green network with goals around wildlife habitat provision, conserving and enhancing vegetation quality and water quality management. Undeveloped lands that are not located near existing city-owned Natural Lands should also be considered for acquisition, specifically in Equity Priority Zones. See Map 19: Priority Areas for Conservation.

96%

of Spokane residents consider the conservation of lands and water essential of very important

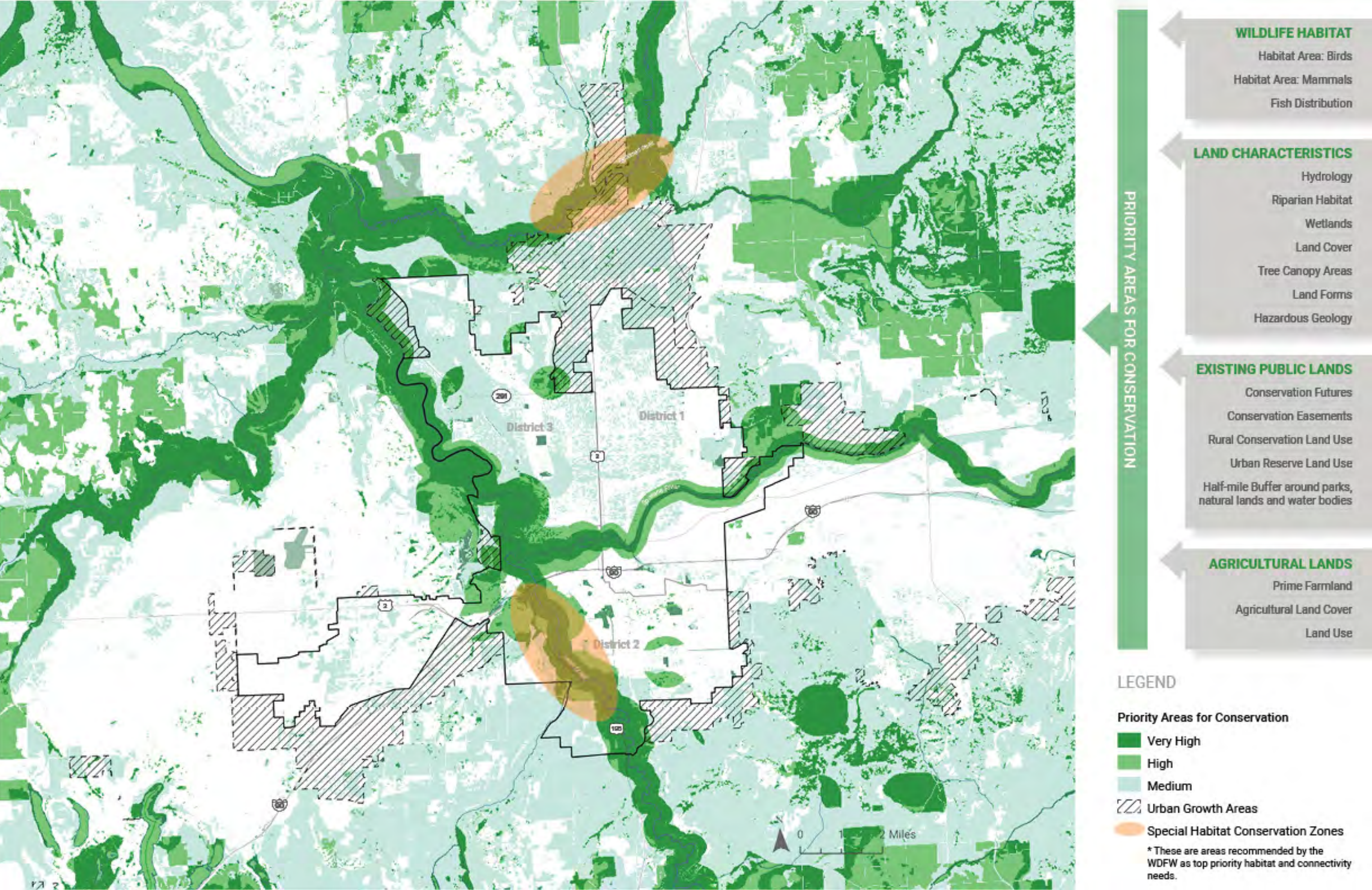
93%

of Spokane residents desire to protect wildlife habitat, conserve native plants, sensitive landscapes and forest and preserve areas with beautiful or unique natural features

Source: Public Survey 2021



MAP 19: PRIORITY AREAS FOR CONSERVATION



Source: City of Spokane GIS data 2021, Spokane County GIS Data, Washington State Open Data



**Objective 2. Further Regional Partnerships For Land Acquisitions**

The Parks Department should further its existing partnership program for natural land property acquisitions with the Inland Northwest Land Conservancy. The Inland Northwest Land Conservancy (INLC) is a local nonprofit based in Spokane that works with community members to “identify and protect special places throughout the region.” With a team of conservationists, land stewards, protection specialists and fundraisers, the INLC is an ideal partner for both acquisitions and land management and improvement programs. Importantly, the INLC has created a long-range open space plan for Spokane County. This plan lays groundwork for strategic decision-making and fundraising opportunities for natural land conservation. Formal partnerships with the Coeur d’Alene Tribe, INLC and others can bolster the plans land acquisition goal to link and create a contiguous green network.



GOAL C: PRESERVE OUR WILD

**STRATEGIES**

Objective 2. Further Regional Partnerships For Land Acquisitions

» Explore advancements to existing partnerships, such as INLC and Spokane County, and enhancing efforts made by the Coeur d’Alene Tribe for natural land preservation.

**Objective 3. Initiate Interdisciplinary Partnerships For Land Management**

Partnerships for land management and improvement projects help to enhance existing properties that lack proper maintenance to improve ecological function and enhance vegetation and water quality. The City should also consider the INLC and others with expertise in natural sciences, such as the U.S. Forest Service and local education and research groups, to be partners for the care and attention of existing natural lands under City ownership. Partners can execute condition assessments to analyze natural resource quality then experts can train city staff on proper land management techniques at the nexus of sustainability and recreation. Staff can develop projects that help mitigate impacts that are resulting to a degradation of environmental quality can be planned and accomplished with assistance from volunteers and partner staff.



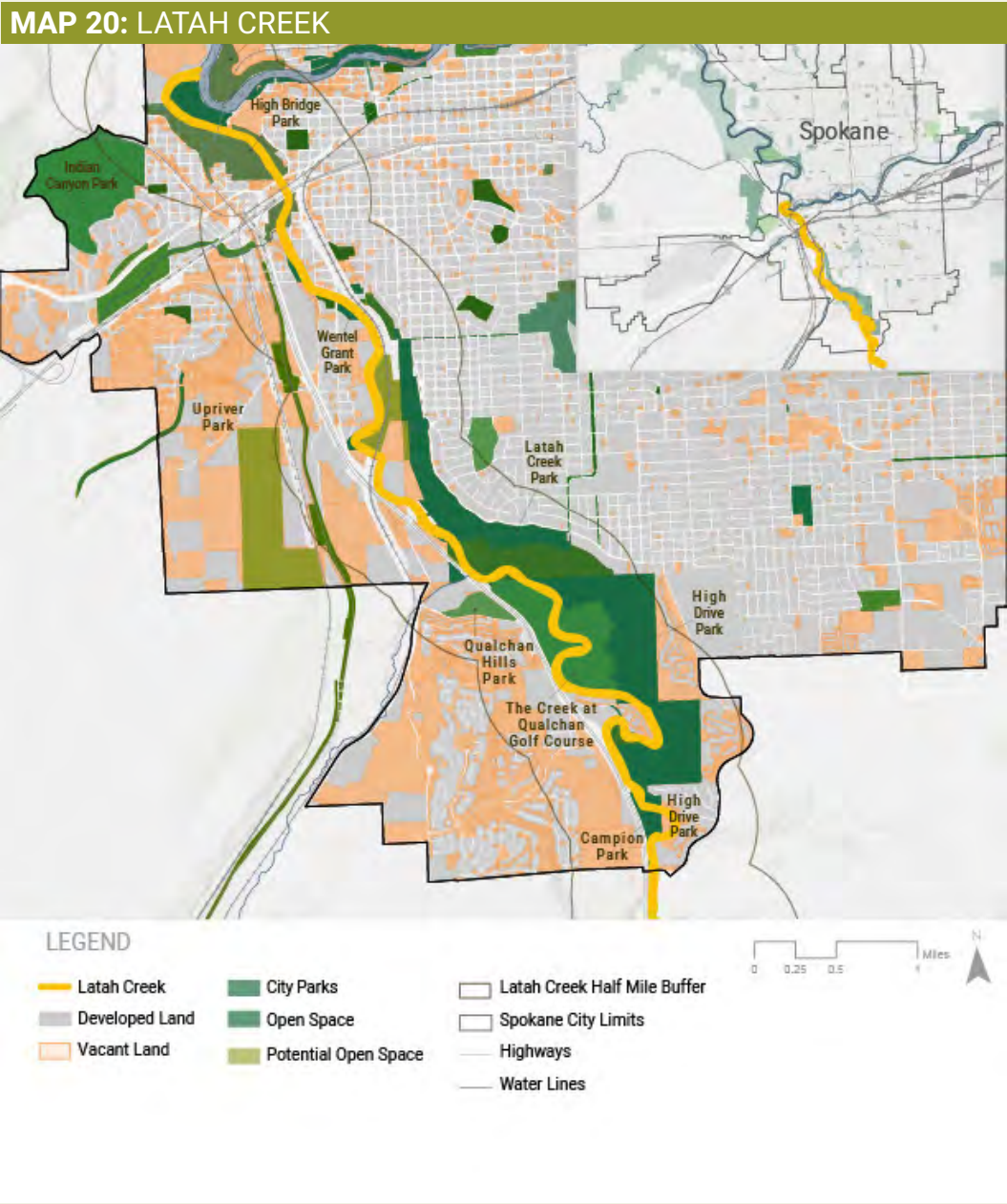
GOAL C: PRESERVE OUR WILD

**STRATEGIES**

Objective 3. Initiate Interdisciplinary Partnerships For Land Management

» Develop partnerships for cross-collaboration and education with universities, non-profit and government agencies with expertise in land management.

**ACQUISITION CASE STUDY**



Source: City of Spokane GIS data 2021, Spokane County GIS Data

The Coeur d’Alene Tribe may be seen as a leader in land conservation efforts. Notably, the Tribe’s recent purchase of the “Pilcher property,” a 48-acre parcel of land within Spokane city limits, has preserved an important property that is adjacent to Latah Creek from residential subdivision. The property purchase was motivated by concerns of the potential loss of farmland and likely harm to the ecological function along the creek. This purchase may be considered as groundwork for regional coordination for preservation of properties along Latah Creek.



**Objective 4. Create Dashboard For Monitoring And Reporting**

Create a dashboard for monitoring and reporting natural land health and function, using partnerships with local universities. The dashboard might show the performance of natural lands in terms of contributions to air and water quality and important wildlife habitat. Showcasing current restoration projects can help to publicize the effort, garner volunteers and support and demonstrate city-led efforts in response to resident feedback regarding conservation goals. This type of partnership realizes multiple benefits. Reporting on how lands are performing helps to educate residents about the benefits of natural lands and can be used to promote future acquisition or protection efforts by demonstrating land value with a lens that is focused beyond financial terms. Local universities benefit from having access to properties for “real life” classroom settings. Further, by providing a setting for students to become invested in Spokane’s landscapes and recreation areas, efforts for talent retention will be supported as young people are more likely to want to set roots in an area to which they feel connected.



GOAL C: PRESERVE OUR WILD

**STRATEGIES**

Objective 4. Create Dashboard For Monitoring And Reporting

» Create a dashboard for monitoring and reporting natural land health and function, using partnerships with local universities.

**Objective 5. Enhance Our Natural Lands With Projects To Restore Ecologies And Build Resilience To Natural Disasters**

The multitude of factors that contribute to climate change are broad and intertwined with many facets of our daily lives. Therefore, it is imperative to deploy an interdisciplinary approach to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) that contribute to temperature rise as well as adjust practices to mitigate the effects of climate change.


The impact of climate change is global, but the specific consequences vary based on geography and environmental factors unique to each region. According to a 2018 Climate Impact Research Consortium (CIRC) climate adaptation project, Spokane can expect warmer year-round temperatures that result in longer, drier summers, decreased snowpack and ensuing changes in river flow and an increased risk of wildfire frequency and intensity, resulting in loss of habitat. These effects are expected to cause significant economic

and recreation costs and will disproportionately and adversely impact children, people who work outdoors, people without housing, low-income residents and those with underlying health issues.

The City can build strategies that address, respond to, and even lessen the projected impacts of climate change by taking advantage of the existing network of natural lands. The following recommendations focus on climate adaptation strategies.



Spokane natural lands



GOAL C: PRESERVE OUR WILD

**STRATEGIES**

Objective 5. Enhance Our Natural Lands With Projects To Restore Ecologies And Build Resilience To Natural Disasters

» Develop climate adaptation strategies and land management practices for natural lands that support environmental quality and resilience.

» Execute a trail maintenance plan. A key component to preserving open space and promoting ecological health is maintaining recreation trails. By providing a designated space for passive recreational use, surrounding natural areas are less likely to bear the impacts of human disruption such as trampling and erosion which can negatively affect water bodies and soil and vegetation health.

» Grow the urban forest to take in carbon and filter particulate matter from the air, provide shade and mitigate the urban heat island effect of hot summers, and provide critical wildlife habitat for feeding, nesting and migration.

» Develop “fuel reduction” treatments that thin and remove vegetation, focusing on dryer forests that are more prone to frequent fires. Thinning vegetation, or fuels, disrupts the amount of vertical and horizontal vegetative continuity that create the intense, hot and fast fire spread. This approach is commonplace for large land managers such as the U.S. Forest Service, who use it to reduce the risk of catastrophic “mega fires” that have come to define this era of increased fire frequency and intensity.

» Implement strategies that reduce and remove invasive species to support the growth of native vegetation and habitats.

» Form partnerships and team with interdisciplinary experts, such as working with Tribal partners to develop traditional ecological management strategies or partnering with federal agencies to learn best practices for forest treatments.



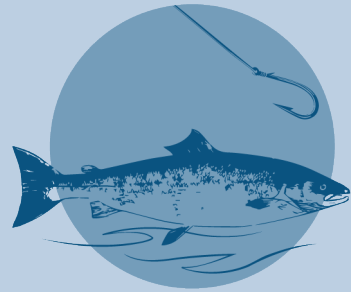


# 4

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVEMENT: WATER

- Goal D: Swim and Splash
- Goal E: Activate the Spokane River
- Goal F: Improve Water Use Efficiency





## CHAPTER 4. WATER

Per the State of Washington’s 2017 Assessment of Outdoor Recreation Demand Report , 66 percent of Washingtonians report visiting rivers or streams, making it the second most popular activity in the state based on participation rate. As a city that is known by the river that runs through it, Spokane is a place with unique and notable opportunities for water recreation and enjoyment. From enjoying the beach to whitewater kayaking, interacting with water requires skill sets that can be built at a young age.

## THEME: WATER

Goal D: Swim and Splash	
Objective 1.	Expand Access To Existing Outdoor Pools
Objective 2.	Partner With Public Schools, Public Facilities, Private Nonprofits To Enhance Water Recreation
Objective 3.	Provide Additional Splash Pads In Parks
Goal E : Care for and Activate the Spokane River	
Objective 1.	Develop Additional Universally Accessible Water Access Points
Objective 2.	Develop Trails And Boardwalks For Safe Swimming Access In Spokane River
Objective 3.	Program River Races
Objective 4.	River Recreation Programming And Rentals
Goal F: Improve Water Use Efficiency	
Objective 1.	Reduce Water Needs
Objective 2.	Improve City-Wide Water Management Practices





Outdoor pools like Witter at Mission Park are popular destinations during the summer months

### GOAL D. SWIM AND SPLASH

Swim and Splash includes improving and expanding aquatic facilities, specifically an indoor aquatics center, and expanding access to existing outdoor pools. With six outdoor pools throughout the community, Spokane already provides more than three times more aquatic facilities than the national average, two times more facilities than agencies with populations similar to Spokane, eight times more than agencies that manage comparable amounts of land to the city of Spokane, and more than other comparable park agencies in the Pacific Northwest. Use of these outdoor pools is limited, however, to the summer season. When the aquatics facilities are open, they receive very high levels of use. This goal therefore focuses on expanding opportunities to teach swimming and water safety to reduce barriers to water recreation by providing additional splash pads in parks and exploring partnerships with public schools or private organizations such as the YMCA to enhance year-round access to water recreation.

The safety risks of inadequate water skills are severe; more children ages one to four die from drowning than any other cause of death except birth defects. This danger disproportionately impacts communities of color and those on the lower end of the socioeconomic spectrum. According to the USA Swimming Foundation, 79 percent of children in families with household income less than \$50,000, 64 percent of African American children and 45 percent of Hispanic children have no to low swimming ability. Preventing the risk of drowning

requires water competency from developing personal swimming skills and water understanding to training a broad base of people with CPR and emergency response skills to help others.

The parks and recreation system has an important role to play in promoting a person's full life cycle of water play, from establishing water skills in developed settings to building an appreciation of natural amenities and spending time recreating in nature.

### Objective 1. Expand Access To Existing Outdoor Pools

The City of Spokane Parks and Recreation Department currently offers a rare service in the form of open and free public access to six outdoor swimming pools throughout the city. The City's outdoor pools are open for 10 weeks through the summer months. While public outreach responses reflect an enthusiastic appreciation for this service, feedback also reflects a desire for a longer swim season.

Spokane provide 3 times more aquatic facilities than the national average



GOAL D: SWIM AND SPLASH

### STRATEGIES

#### Objective 1. Expand Access To Existing Outdoor Pools

- » Explore a pilot project to expand the open and free public swim season from June through September. Policies might consider additional fees for expanded swim time.
- » Develop metrics understand changes or increases in use and whether offering a longer season would increase participation. The costs to provide free swim access within the city is not insignificant; to justify an expansion the pools should be utilized at comparable levels to the current open season.


### PUBLIC COMMENT

"Pool should be open for a longer time; the season is way too short and it is hot well before it opens."



**Objective 2. Partner With Public Schools, Public Facilities, Private Nonprofits To Enhance Water Recreation**

Like requests for a longer outdoor pool season, public feedback reflect a desire for an indoor aquatics center. The cost of building and maintaining these types of facilities is immense and could require years of fund raising and planning. As a large expense, it is important to budget accordingly and possibly seek cost-sharing or partnerships. Like requests for a longer outdoor pool season, public feedback reflect a desire for a publicly accessible indoor aquatics center. It should be noted that there are several organizations in the Spokane Community that already offer indoor swimming pools, however access is fee-based and presents barriers to participation for some segments of Spokane’s population. The cost of building and maintaining publicly accessible aquatics facilities is immense and could require years of fund raising and planning. As a large expense, it is important to budget accordingly and possibly seek cost-sharing or partnerships.



GOAL D: SWIM AND SPLASH

**STRATEGIES**

Objective 2. Partnerships with public schools, public facilities districts to enhance water recreation.

- » Study options to reduce barriers to access water recreation. Explore the potential for partnership programs through first assessing the capacity for public access at existing facilities at the YMCA, Whitworth University and Spokane Community College. If sufficient capacity exists, study the partnerships for complementary or reduced membership could reduce financial hurdles by creating free or low-cost programming opportunities for year-round swim lessons and water safety courses to ease barriers to water recreation.


**Objective 3. Provide Additional Splashpads in Parks.**

Splash and spray pads offer a fun, interactive and accessible way to socialize in shared public spaces. Geared toward children, splash and spray pads supports learning and growth and can also provide benefits to all age groups as families can come together and socialize outdoors while watching the younger ones play in a safe and contained space. Additionally, as we move toward an era of increasingly warmer global temperatures, splash and spray pads can provide important cooling features and respite during hot summer days. With a relatively small footprint, splash and spray pads provide an opportunity for water play but are less costly to build and maintain than full aquatic centers or pools.

Currently there are 18 splash pads distributed throughout Spokane’s parks system; they are found in neighborhood parks, community parks, regional parks and special use parks.



A young Spokaneite enjoying a splash pad



GOAL D: SWIM AND SPLASH

**STRATEGIES**

Objective 3. Provide additional splash pads in parks.

- » Identify new locations for splash pads. These investments are most appropriate to be located in regional and community parks and urban plazas, in order to capitalize on cost savings by serving the most amount of people with their relatively high cost of operation.
- » Develop guidelines for design that is reflective of neighborhood culture and demographics, provides both tactile and contextual learning opportunities and can be flexible to adapt to different seasons.
- » Incorporate designs features to make splash and spray pads accessible for all.
- » Prioritize using ‘recirculating splash pad systems’ to ‘flow through systems’ to conserve splash pad water use and comply with Washington State Department of Ecology Requirements for disposal of splash pad water. Identify maintenance funding for additional labor, chemical, and material cost associated with recirculating systems.





Campers learning to canoe as part of the Youth Outdoor Adventure Camp

### GOAL E. CARE FOR AND ACTIVATE THE SPOKANE RIVER

Active the Spokane River means making it easier for residents to access and utilize the river including additional boat launches and access points in coordination with parking lots to make it easier to transport vessels such as kayaks, canoes, and standup paddleboards into the water. There is opportunity for expanding trails and boardwalks for swimming access and additional programming such as river races and rentals. Additionally, river access should meet ADA standards to ensure all Spokane residents can realize the benefits of water access.

The Spokane River is a prominent feature within the city. The original inhabitants of the area relied on the river for almost all facets of daily life, from sustenance to cultural connection. As European settlers arrived in the Spokane Valley, they similarly primarily settled along river. Importantly, the Upriver Hydroelectric Dam is a concrete gravity dam located on the Spokane River in southeast Spokane near John H. Shields and Minnehaha Parks.


Today the city’s crown park, Riverfront Park, is considered the defining landmark of Spokane and affords many opportunities to take in views of the Spokane River, including Spokane Falls, through the Numerica Sky Ride gondola, viewing platforms and benches. The Centennial Trail also provides viewing access as it winds its way along the Spokane River west of Riverfront Park, connecting to the Herbert M. Hamblen Conservation Area. As the Spokane River snakes north from downtown, it borders the western boundary of the city and flows through the Downriver Golf and Disc Golf Course and Riverside State Park. As the river runs east from downtown, it travels through several neighborhoods to Camp Sekani and Beacon Hill, which offer mountain biking and hiking trails as well as disc golf.

Through public engagement efforts, residents voiced both an appreciation for the Spokane River and a desire to access it for recreation. An impressive 74 percent of survey respondents noted an appreciation and desire for fishing amenities. The following recommendations focus on careful coordination with State, Tribal and regional partners to find policy, acquisition and design solutions to increase public access to the Spokane River. A map of potential water access improvements is contained in this chapter (Map 21) to direct future investments.

### Objective 1. Develop Additional Universally Accessible Water Access Points

The Spokane River is already a recreation touchstone for residents. In a 2009 poll conducted by the State of Washington, 70 percent of residents who live near the river reported visiting the river for hiking, biking, boating or fishing at least three times a year . There are currently seven boat launches within the city; resident survey responses indicate a need for more.

As the City of Spokane seeks to provide inclusive recreational opportunities throughout its system, creative designs and innovative projects can promote river access for all ages and abilities. Inclusive design includes a myriad of solutions, from fishing piers and platforms that consider rail heights to support those in a wheelchair to creating universal access ramps for kayaks and canoes. Universal accessibility creates opportunities for people with disabilities to reap the benefits of recreation; recreation builds physical and social skills, promotes health, strengthens bonds among community members and fosters environmental stewardship.



GOAL E: CARE FOR AND ACTIVATE THE SPOKANE RIVER

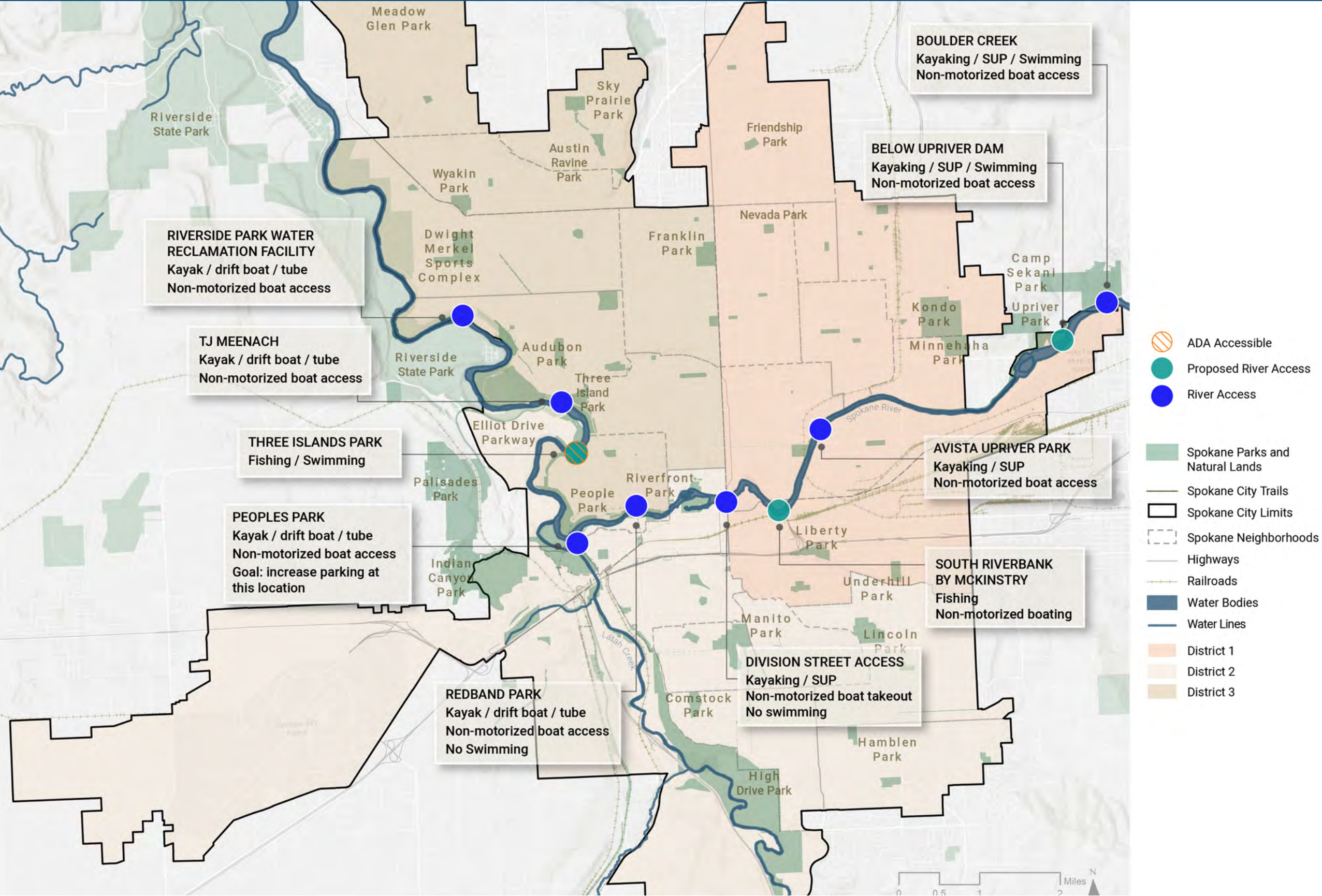
## STRATEGIES

Objective 1. Develop Additional Water Access Points

- » Develop additional fishing access points and launches for boats, stand up paddle boards and kayaks in coordination with parking lots.
- » Incorporate ADA design best practices for developed water access points, such as mobi-mats and on-site water wheelchair rentals.



Map 21: Potential Water Access Improvements



Source: City of Spokane, 2022



Objective 2. Develop Trails And Boardwalks For Safe Swimming Access In Spokane River

Perhaps not widely understood as a public space within an urban setting, the Spokane River can provide opportunities for swimming in natural waters. While some places along the Spokane River, such as areas downtown surrounding Spokane Falls, are unsafe for swimming, other places where the river widens and slows are suitable for water recreation.



GOAL E: CARE FOR AND ACTIVATE THE SPOKANE RIVER

STRATEGIES

Objective 2. Develop trails and boardwalks for safe swimming access in Spokane River

- » Identify ideal locations for designated swimming areas in a natural setting within city limits.
- » Partner with local outdoor outfitters or those who promote recreation in Spokane, such as Visit Spokane, providing an opportunity to inform residents about where these swimming access points are located and promote their safe use.

WHAT WE HEARD: WATER

95% of respondents rated conservation of lands around rivers, streams, creeks, and floodplains as “very important” or “essential”

59% of respondents have used outdoor aquatic facilities including pools and splash pads

74% percent of survey respondents noted an appreciation and desire for the Parks Department to support fishing access

“Build Meadowglen Park, with full park amenities for families including play structures, splash pads, walking trails and tennis courts. There is no park that is within a 10 minute walking distance for this neighborhood, so it would be great if this is developed.”

76% percent of respondents physically changing portions of parks to meadows or natural space to be more sustainable and use less resources.

CASE STUDY: URBAN RIVER INTERVENTIONS



Small design interventions, such as the creation of boardwalks, diving boards and even temporary structures that create pools within the open waters by providing floating boundaries can direct human access to places that are safe for interacting with the river. Precedents can be found for urban river swimming models in places with similar climates such as Switzerland and Copenhagen.





Start of the 2007 International Weiswampach Triathlon, Men. by Steven Fruitsmaak via Wikimedia Commons

Objective 3. Program River Races

As the Spokane River spans from Lake Coeur d’Alene in Idaho to its confluence with Lake Roosevelt (the Upper Columbia River) in Washington, race courses can span multiple jurisdictions and draw people from the broader region to participate. In addition to supporting activities that support health and wellness, this programming also provides economic development opportunity. According to the 2021 Spokane Sustainability Action Plan, large city events such as Hoopfest and Pig Out in the Park combined bring an estimated \$54 million to Spokane every year.

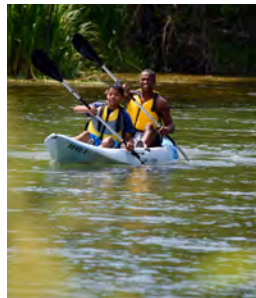


GOAL E: CARE FOR AND ACTIVATE THE SPOKANE RIVER

STRATEGIES

Objective 3. Program River Races

- » Develop partnerships to promote recreation on the Spokane River through the programming of river races, ranging from canoe and kayak races to swimming courses.



Two people kayaking

Objective 4. River Recreation Programming And Rentals

The Parks Department currently offers water sports programming with kayaking classes. These are highly popular classes for teenagers and families with teenagers, presenting an opportunity to reach an important demographic that can often be missed in parks programming.



GOAL E: CARE FOR AND ACTIVATE THE SPOKANE RIVER

STRATEGIES

Objective 4. River Recreation Programming And Rentals

- » Expand river recreation programming opportunities with specific focus on young adults and teens.
- » Pair water recreation rentals, such as kayaks and water wheelchairs, in high-use areas designated for water access.
- » Consider expanding river shuttle use to ease demand on parking facilities.

GOAL F. IMPROVE WATER USE EFFICIENCY

Improve water use efficiency would include partnerships between city offices to update water systems and applications, ranging from capital infrastructure projects to water management practices that more holistically address drought and climate.

According to the 2020 Spokane Water Conservation Master Plan, four percent of the city’s water consumption is dedicated to parks and recreation facilities including all city-owned parks and golf courses. In 2014, the City of Spokane set annual water use efficiency goals, creating a specific target of reducing water use on government-owned outdoor spaces, such as city-owned parks. With the exception of the year 2015, the city goals have not been realized between 2014 and 2019 (the latest time span of reporting). Looking forward, this Parks and Natural Lands Master Plan outlines strategies to meet an ambitious goal of reducing watering needs by ten percent system wide. This would require making necessary system upgrades while converting some landscapes to drought-tolerant vegetation to result in a water reduction of 20 to 30 percent per park site.

Objective 1. Reduce Water Needs

Efforts to reduce the amount of land area that requires irrigation, such as landscaping changes that convert turf or impervious spaces to native plants species and drought-tolerant plantings, reduce water consumption and demonstrate the city’s commitment to natural resource conservation.



GOAL F: IMPROVE WATER USE EFFICIENCY

STRATEGIES

Objective 1. Reduce Water Needs

- » Replace turf with synthetic fields and/or organic and hardscape materials such as drought-tolerant plants, mulch, decomposed granite, gravel and permeable pavers.





A maintenance worker adjusts a sprinkler

**Objective 2. Improve City-Wide Water Management Practices**

Implementing operation techniques within park spaces, such as utilizing advancements in water system technologies and the strategic intervention of natural landscape designs, supports the Parks Department in being responsible land stewards with an eye for conservation.



GOAL F: IMPROVE WATER USE EFFICIENCY

**STRATEGIES**

Objective 2. Improve City-Wide Water Management Practices

- » Develop a Drought Management Plan to outline a method for reducing water consumption within parks during drought conditions.
- » Identify improvements such as automated irrigation systems to reduce hand watering and permit overnight watering. This would also reduce staff time spent hand watering and increase time for other park maintenance work.
- » Utilize recycled water by implement natural landscaping to slow and filter rainwater runoff from impervious surfaces, such as demonstration rain gardens around park building sites or bioswales. These serve as a model to the community for practical stormwater management tactics as well as an opportunity to increase the amount of greenspace using limited to no water resources.







# 5

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVEMENT: PEOPLE

- Goal G: Parks For All
- Goal H: Build Awareness
- Goal I: Diversity of Offerings
- Goal J: Co-existence





## CHAPTER 5. PEOPLE

The theme People refers to ways that residents and visitors interact with parklands and recreational offerings. As public spaces, parks are shared by all types of people. Avoiding conflict and sharing space within the parks is a challenge around the country and Spokane is no exception. In addition to spatial conflicts, there are also ways to bring more people to the parks and introduce new audiences to available programming. Many residents requested a broader diversity of program offerings, including more offerings at Corbin Art Center for adults and teens.

## THEME: PEOPLE

### Goal G: Parks for All

- Objective 1. Support ADA Accessibility
- Objective 2. Parks Reflect People And Place

### Goal H: Build Awareness

- Objective 1. Signage And Wayfinding
- Objective 2. Ongoing Marketing Campaign For Programs and Services
- Objective 3. Partnerships With Schools

### Goal I: Diversity of Offerings

- Objective 1. Refresh Program Offerings
- Objective 2. Commit To Diversity, Equity And Inclusion In Programming

### Goal J: Co-existence

- Objective 1. Clarify Park’s Role With Addressing Homelessness And Train Staff Members For Appropriate Response And Interactions
- Objective 2. Park Design For Positive Interactions
- Objective 3. Partner For A Public Awareness And Support Campaign



GOAL G. PARKS FOR ALL

Parks for All aims to enhance and improve existing parks in Spokane to better serve all ages, incomes, abilities, genders, and cultural identities. This includes improvements and renovations to address American Disability Act (ADA) accessibility, providing low-or-no-cost activities, and ensuring that parks reflect the culture, identity, and demographics of the neighborhood and city.

Objective 1. Support ADA Accessibility

Of the 82 parks in Spokane (excluding golf courses and parkways), only 28 are ADA accessible. Public input indicates caregivers want more accessible playgrounds. Of the 53 playgrounds in Spokane, only 32 are ADA accessible. Playgrounds that are not eligible for full renovations could add some accessible equipment such as the swings at Providence Playscape. The American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) provides design guidelines for parks and plazas based on the seven universal design principles (right) including but not limited to: at grade connections to the street, comfortable and accessible seating and consistent multi-sensory wayfinding such as tactile paving.



GOAL G: PARKS FOR ALL

**STRATEGIES**

Objective 1. Support ADA Accessibility

- » Update parks designs for ADA access such as walkways, seating, play areas and other facilities, prioritized by areas of identified need.
- » When replacing playground equipment in poor condition, consider replacing with equipment that follow Universal Design Principles.



A child plays the xylophone at Providence Playscape, Spokane's first inclusive playground

UNIVERSAL DESIGN

Universal Design Principles were developed in 1997 by a group of architects, designers, engineers, and environmental design researchers with the goal to guide the design of environments, products, and communications.

- Equitable Use
- Flexibility in Use
- Simple and Intuitive Use
- Perceptible Information
- Tolerance for Error
- Low Physical Effort
- Size and Space for Approach and Use

Objective 2. Parks Reflect People And Place

It is important for parks to reflect the culture, identity and support the composition of the residents of the neighborhood within which they are located. While some typical aspects of parks are standardized for efficiency, such as entry signs and trash receptacles, there is opportunity to celebrate neighborhood character in parks through design and program provision.

Outdoor adventure is an important aspect of Inland Northwest culture and should be clearly represented in public spaces. Recreation trends that reflect the local culture and lifestyle include high participation rates in disc golf, pickleball and dog parks. Spokane residents value connecting with and spending time in nature, so parks with a lot of hardscaping and no flora and fauna would not be appropriate.

During the park planning process it is essential to enlist feedback and earn buy-in from residents from adjacent neighborhoods. Local knowledge helps ensure the future park improvements and programs include the right components that contribute to parks' use and provide elements that address perceptions of welcomeness and inclusion. Partnerships with local organizations opens opportunities for programming in park spaces that is tailored to the character, culture, environmental setting and history of the city's neighborhoods.

**Reflecting Age:** The median age of Spokane is 37 and nearly 20 percent of the population are under 18. The fastest growing age segment is 65 and older, many of whom live in the southeastern and northeastern portions of the city. Residents younger than 20 are concentrated in the areas around Gonzaga University and Liberty Park as well as a small pocket in the northeastern part of the city. The age of a neighborhood's residents will influence the amenities that are desired and the concentration of where they live may influence priorities for parks to upgrade. For example, as the aging population continues to grow, it is important to plan for this demographic by providing wheelchair accessible raised garden beds. Older adults who may no longer drive, and who have limited mobility, still require access to parks for important mental and physical health benefits. The Parks and Recreation department

may want to explore park design considerations for dementia and older populations.

**Reflecting Ethnicity and Language:** Spokane residents are 84 percent white, three percent Asian, and three percent Black or African American. The Native American population makes up two percent of the city, with a significant concentration living in the downtown area. Seven percent of the population are of Hispanic origin and the city is slowly growing in diversity. Ninety-two percent of Spokane residents speak English only, and 2.4 percent, or 6,200 people, speak Spanish. Languages besides English and Spanish are spoken by 19.4 percent of residents. One of the languages that prevalent in the city is Russian; according to data from ACS 2019, about 3.6 percent of the County's population claims Russian heritage. Strategies to foster a sense



**PUBLIC COMMENT**

"It would be nice if there were many more unique parks that would be destinations ...Sandboxes would also be awesome. Faux streams to play in. More interesting splash pads."



of belonging and increase accessibility include providing signage in multiple languages and displaying public art or design features that reflect certain heritages or histories. Providing programming that recognizes diverse cultures, such as festivals, markets, performances, art exhibits, and others, can attract new audiences to the parks. Partnerships with community-based organizations and local non-profit groups can lead to experimental programs and help to reach a wider audience.

**Reflecting Income (Providing Low- or no-cost Activities):** Spokane’s Median Household Income (MHI) is substantially lower than that of the state’s - \$51,504 compared to \$76,403. Median household incomes are expected to grow by 6.4 percent in 2025. Income distribution by household in the city shows a large portion of low to middle income households. About a quarter of all households (24.3 percent) earn less than \$25,000 annually. About 33

percent of households earn between \$35,000 and \$50,000 annually, and 32 percent of households earn \$50,000 to \$100,000 annually.

Households earning a higher MHI are concentrated in the southern and northwestern parts of city while areas with a lower median household income are situated in the downtown area and around Gonzaga University. The city has much fewer high-income households than the State with 19.8 percent of households earning more than \$100,000 annually compared to 37.7 percent in Washington. This is significant for the Parks and Recreation department as they consider budgeting and pricing of programs. By providing low-cost or no cost activities to residents, more people can benefit from the department’s offerings. The city already offers free pool access, which is very popular, and should be prioritized and potentially expanded going forward.

GOAL H. BUILD AWARENESS

Spokane Parks and Recreation offers incredible programming and facilities, but many residents are not aware of the full breadth of resources available to them. Build Awareness includes making it easier for residents to learn about recreation programming and locations. Specific strategies to improve building awareness include improving signage and wayfinding at existing locations to make them more accessible, expanding, or improving marketing campaigns for program offerings, and partnerships with schools.

Objective 1. Signage and Wayfinding

Signage and wayfinding are important aspects of park branding and placemaking and key to orienting visitors in physical space. The style, design, use of materials communicate the brand of the parks department or the special use park. Signage helps to define the space and often signals who the space is for. Wayfinding combines signage and map design, symbols, color, and typography to effectively navigate people through a space. It helps orient people, creating clarity and confidence in park users. Wayfinding includes trail markers, maps, and directional signs.



GOAL G: PARKS FOR ALL

STRATEGIES

Objective 2. Parks Reflect People and Place

- » Design and program Neighborhood Parks to highlight the unique natural, historical, cultural and economic identity of the surrounding area and community in which they are located.
- » Combine community planning for neighborhoods with neighborhood park planning to give a more wholistic approach to public engagement and collecting inspiration for park design.
- » Explore possibility of a sliding scale for program fees to create more affordability for those with lower income.
- » Explore possibility of charging a higher fee for non-city residents participating in regional activities, such as adult softball leagues.



GOAL H: BUILD AWARENESS

STRATEGIES

Objective 1. Signage and Wayfinding

- » Develop comprehensive signage and wayfinding guidelines for the park system to assist residents and visitors in navigating city offerings and amenities.
- » Incorporate digital signage to help inform people where services are located.



**Objective 2. Ongoing Marketing Campaign For Programs and Services**

One finding that emerged from community feedback was that residents don't know about some of the existing programs and services that The Parks Department offers. A marketing campaign to advertise the full breadth of services, and highlight that they have been revamped in part because of the efforts of this plan, could bring more awareness to the people of Spokane.



GOAL H: BUILD AWARENESS

**STRATEGIES**

Objective 2. Ongoing Marketing Campaign For Programs and Services

- » Standardized graphics printed material and signage would provide recognition for Spokane Parks and Recreation.
- » Explore partnerships with local community groups and Friends of groups to expand outreach.
- » Develop several new strategies for reaching additional audiences, particularly teens and adults, and for further engaging current users.

**Objective 3. Partnerships With Schools**

While the Parks Department may have the facilities and also the staffing expertise to operating successful and popular programs, some residents would like to see additional offering of some programs, particularly the Open Swim and some swim classes. They do not necessarily have sufficient funding to meet the ongoing demand. In the meantime, the local school groups typically have the funding resources, but they do not have the facilities and the staffing expertise to program some after school activities. The local schools do not have swim teams and meets but are interested in starting up. Currently, the Parks Department may not have the facility that would meet middle/high school competition requirements, but can coordinate with other local recreation providers (such as the YMCA) for facility uses, support the school with experienced Parks Department staff, to ensure a successful after school program for the local students.

GOAL H: BUILD AWARENESS



**STRATEGIES**

Objective 3. Partnerships With Schools

- » Explore partnership opportunities with local schools by offering programs, instructions, and a place for swim meets for school clubs or teams.
- » Connect school clubs/teams with other local nonprofits (such as YMCA) that may have facilities that are more suitable for competitions.
- » Explore opportunities to create educational programs/activities with local schools on environmental and natural resource education.
- » Consider “professional” classes for adults for landscape maintenance, such as proper pruning techniques and other technical classes.

**GOAL I. DIVERSITY OF OFFERINGS**

Public comments throughout the engagement process referenced a lack of diversity in programing. Diversity of Offerings refers to expanding program offerings to reach a broader diversity of users, eliminating under-used programs, and providing additional diversity as requested by the public. Shifting program offerings to more convenient times of day and/or providing them year-round can increase the public's ability to participate.

**Objective 1. Refresh program offerings**

**Variety:** To reach a broader range of participants, the Parks Department can diversify program offerings to reach a broader diversity of users, eliminate under-used programs, and provide additional diversity requested by the public. User groups who are historically under-engaged are teenagers, older adults, and low-income youth. These groups should receive special consideration and outreach. More variety could attract new, more diverse audiences, as well as fill gaps found elsewhere.


Consider reintroducing classes that were eliminated from the program due to low attendance. Public survey results reflect a desire for certain activities to be revived, such as camping.



**Timing:** In addition to the types of programming available, timing is important to reach a broader audience. People who work traditional 9-5 jobs cannot access classes or events that are offered during the day. Likewise, after school programs that do not include transportation may be inaccessible for kids with working parents. One respondent noted that classes fill up quickly, before they have a chance to register. When asked what prevents them from using Spokane recreation facilities, programs, parks, or natural lands more often, 14 percent of District 2 and 17 percent of District 3 respondents said the hours/timing are not convenient. Comparatively, 6 percent of District 1 respondents said the same thing.



Residents enjoy a community yoga class in the Riverfront Pavilion



GOAL I: DIVERSITY OF OFFERINGS

**STRATEGIES**

Objective 1: Refresh program offerings

- » Offer programs to under-engaged groups, such as teenagers, aging populations, low-income youth, etc.
- » Form partnerships with non-profits and higher education institutions to introduce thousands of students to water safety and swimming.
- » Identify user groups that most identify with specific times of day, such as programs that are for young adults, teens, and families occurring in the early evening and on weekends.
- » Consider “reintroducing” classes that were previously offered but eliminated due to low attendance. Public survey results reflect wish to reintroduce certain activities that were once offered (such as camping), explore opportunities to vary scheduling and when activities are offered.

**Objective 2. Commit To Diversity, Equity And Inclusion In Programming**

To make Spokane Parks and Recreation more inclusive, a dedicated staffer can collaborate with community-based organizations, build relationships with the community, and develop programming that reflects the diverse demographics and needs of Spokane. According to a report by the National Recreation and Park Association, one in three park and recreation agencies have established formal diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) initiatives and another third have plans to do so within the next year.



A young participant at the Spokane Powwow



GOAL I: DIVERSITY OF OFFERINGS

**STRATEGIES**

Objective 2. Commit To Diversity, Equity And Inclusion In Programming

- » Hire a staff member with a specific focus on inclusion. Staffer could serve across departments to ensure consistency in programming, operations, partnerships, etc.
- » Commit to diversity, equity, and inclusion improvements at the organizational level through training and continuing education.
- » Evaluate discontinuing the Therapeutic Recreation Services program and instead ensure all programs are accessible. This strategy leads to better integration between recreation users across the ability spectrum.

**WHAT WE HEARD: PEOPLE**

**76%** of respondents rated the importance of parks and recreation facilities providing social opportunities, places to gather and social events as “very important” or “essential”

**73%** of respondents rated promoting appreciation and preservation of the cultural and national heritage of the community as “essential” or “very important”

**66%** of respondents believe the City needs to do more to make parks and programs welcoming and accessible



GOAL J. CO-EXISTENCE

Co-existence addresses conflicts between park users and builds a human-centered, compassionate response to people experiencing homelessness who visit Spokane parks. Recommendations include clarifying the role of the Parks and Recreation Department in working in partnership with other city departments and agencies, educating the public and building relationships, as well as planning, adding park features, and managing parks with thoughts to the needs of this park user group.

Homelessness is a growing crisis across the country related to intersecting and complex issues like affordable housing and social service needs. According to the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness, approximately 30 percent of people experiencing homelessness are unsheltered which means they are living on the street, a park, abandoned building, or other locations not suitable for human health. Many others have unstable or unreliable housing. The crisis puts a particular strain on parks and recreation departments, as many people living in temporary shelters may spend daytime hours in a park and those without access to safe or reliable shelter may seek refuge on public properties. Homelessness is often criminalized in the form of bans on camping, trespassing in parks, storing personal property in public spaces, and solicitation. Fifty-three percent of cities have laws prohibiting sitting or lying down in public. People experiencing homelessness often have nowhere to go and rely on public parks. The American Society of Landscape Architects has stated that, “the exclusion of those experiencing homelessness from public parks is often based on fear of crime and the discomfort from others at viewing the circumstances of unhoused individuals.” This report seeks to find a balance between the right of all people to exist in public space while maintaining a welcoming atmosphere for all park users.

Many residents throughout the engagement process commented about not feeling welcome or safe in parks due to trash, drug use, and encampments. It is important to take a human-centered and trauma-informed approach to address homelessness in parks.

Objective 1. Clarify Park’s Role With Addressing Homelessness And Train Staff Members For Appropriate Response And Interactions

The question of who feels welcome in Spokane’s parks came up frequently in the statistically valid survey, resulting in the theme of co-existence. Public spaces are inherently contested space, as they are shared by all types of people. More specifically, to achieve feelings of belonging and community cohesion in Spokane’s parks, the role of parks in addressing homelessness needs to be clarified. The Parks and Recreation Department interfaces with people experiencing homelessness, so it is critical that administrators understand and coordinate with city and regional efforts already underway to address these

challenges. Having clear objectives and policies in place will assist Spokane Parks and Recreation Department in strategic management of issues.

In 2020, the City of Spokane and Spokane County published a 5-Year Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness which is intended to align with the mission of the Continuum of Care (CoC), a multi-jurisdictional/agency advisory board of the regions’ homeless crisis response system. Since 2018, the City of Spokane has worked on addressing unsheltered homelessness, as those numbers appear to increase, and visibility of encampments has impacted resident’s perceptions of safety. As a result, the City of Spokane has invested more in street outreach to try and get people into the homeless service system and has begun utilizing a database and an integrated system to better track and map encampments and improve opportunities to send targeted service supports to those areas. Participation in a coalition on homelessness to coordinate efforts and seek solutions can help the Parks and Recreation Department to proactively address challenges on their properties with support from other organizations.

Parks departments across the U.S. assume varying parts in addressing the rising crisis of homelessness, from forming partnerships with local service providers to providing sanctioned encampments.

Additional steps to train staff on trauma-informed approaches for interacting with users of park spaces will strengthen the park’s role in supporting welcoming and conflict free park spaces. A trauma-informed approach means acknowledging that people experiencing homelessness, both temporary and chronic, likely have a history of trauma. This approach also recognizes that people are more than what has happened to them and are capable of healing and wholeness. Removing tents and belongings of a person experiencing homelessness can compound trauma and distrust. Residents—housed and unhoused—deserve to feel safe and welcome in city parks, so education and a compassionate response are important.





"Solidarity locker" near Santa Apolonia railway station in Lisbon, December 15, 2016. Source: Particia De Melo Moreira, AFP



GOAL J: CO-EXISTENCE

**STRATEGIES**

Objective 1. Clarify Park's Role With Addressing Homelessness And Train Staff Members For Appropriate Response And Interactions

- » To determine the Spokane Parks Department's role, leaders might host a summit, form an interdisciplinary committee, or initiate a study to evaluate the capacity, scope, ability and appropriateness of staff to act in this space.
- » The Parks Department can create an internal workgroup to collaborate across the department and with external stakeholders to define how the department will coordinate with service providers and homelessness coalitions.
- » The Parks Department may consider volunteering a staff member to sit on the CoC board to ensure the parks interests are represented and to serve as a liaison.
- » Parks and Recreation frontline staff receive trauma-informed training, which centers healing, compassion, and respect.

**Objective 2. Park Design For Positive Interactions**

An inclusive park design begins with an inclusive planning process. This can be accomplished by designing with those experiencing homelessness as a key user group and stakeholder in engagement. Creating special engagement opportunities for those experiencing homelessness provides an opportunity for those residents to have a voice and some agency in the process. It also builds relationships and contributes to breaking down stereotypes. According to the Center for Active Design, signage that encourages park uses, as opposed to listing prohibited activities, leads to increased feelings of welcome.

Partnerships with businesses that abut parks and park lands can increase access to basic amenities for people experiencing homelessness.

Other solutions for designing for positive interactions involve activating park spaces to build more human presence. Often it is the presence of diverse people in the park that contribute to a sense of safety and inclusion. Strategies to activate parks and provide comforts such as drinking water, lighting and restrooms to encourage people to spend longer periods of time in the park can lead to improved positive interactions for everyone.



GOAL J: CO-EXISTENCE

**STRATEGIES**

Objective 2. Park Design For Positive Interactions

- » For parks that may have a presence of people experiencing homelessness, create targeted public engagement for those experiencing homelessness when initiating projects that will address park design and improvements.
- » In parks that may have a presence of people experiencing homelessness visiting, explore how their needs might be met through partnerships with agencies that do outreach and park facilities such as storage lockers, drinking fountains, and more.



## CASE STUDY: THE PLEDGE



Source: Be: Seattle

The Pledge is a network of business offering what they can to help their neighbors who are experiencing homelessness. Started in Seattle in 2016, the network now includes Tacoma, Portland, and soon, New York City, with each chapter run by a separate organization. Business owners can opt-in based on what they are willing and able to provide, from a glass of water, a place to charge your phone, a bike pump, or restrooms. Stickers displayed in business windows let folks know they are an available resource. This can take some pressure off the parks to provide facilities and importantly, it signals to people experiencing homelessness that they are welcome members of the greater community.

## Objective 3. Partner For A Public Awareness And Support Campaign

Long-term or intensive solutions to end homelessness require broad public support. The following are common public education messages provided by National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) to express regarding parks to create a common understanding:

- All members of the community are welcome to use public parks and open spaces.
- Everybody is welcome to use parks for recreation, relaxation, rest and leisure.
- Those experiencing homelessness are part of our community.
- Public parks and open spaces can be a more comfortable space for those experiencing homelessness. Parks and other public spaces are key spaces for functional communities.



GOAL J: CO-EXISTENCE

### STRATEGIES

Objective 3. Partner For A Public Awareness And Support Campaign.

- » Work with the CoC board to create a public awareness and support campaign to build compassion and educate the public on the roots and enduring hardships of homelessness.



The game cart at Woodruff Park offered both amenities and a new approachable staff person to support all users of the park.  
Source: Project for Public Spaces

## CASE STUDY

In Atlanta, Woodruff Park is staffed full-time by a social worker whose main objective is to build relationships and connect people experiencing homelessness with social services. This strategy ensures that all park users can access the resources they need while reducing the need for punitive measures. A low budget strategy is to share information on bulletin or community boards about available resources.





# 6

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVEMENT: LEGACY

- Goal K: Maintain and Care
- Goal L: Funding Futures
- Goal M: Strategic Acquisitions and real Estate Management





# CHAPTER 6. LEGACY

New efforts will not be successful without continuing to care for the existing properties and amenities, and doing the basics well. Tracking with growth of the system, attention must be given seeking sustainable forms of funding and adjusting operations to support continuing Spokane’s care for public spaces, natural resources, recreation and services.

## THEME: LEGACY

### Goal K: Maintain and Care

- Objective 1. Replace Aged Facilities
- Objective 2. Put The Park Back Into Parkways Boulevards
- Objective 3. Expand Volunteerism Programs And Acknowledgment
- Objective 4. Environmental Education And Facilities/Trails
- Objective 5. Expand Park Programming For Park Sustainability And Resilience

### Goal L: Funding Futures

- Objective 1. Pursue Additional Funding Sources

### Goal M: Strategic Acquisitions, Partnerships, and Real Estate Management

- Objective 1. New Development Pays for Itself
- Objective 2. Evaluate Current Land Holdings and Potential Partnerships



**PUBLIC  
COMMENTS**

“Palisades could use some trash cans and benches.”

“Additional lighting so parks can be used as a walking trail in the dark of winter.”

“Glass Park needs some lighting, the park is very dark and could use some safety lights.”

**GOAL K: MAINTAIN AND CARE**

Maintain and Care means improving maintenance standards and enhancing community involvement in park care. A management plan to increase standards of care, as well as expanding volunteerism, can contribute to this legacy. Amenities such as more trash and recycling cans (and more frequent emptying of existing ones) and year-round and 18-hour restroom access and upkeep will greatly improve both public perception of the parks system and increase access. Other strategies include improving landscaping, weeding, and watering, expanding environmental education and pursuing additional funding sources.

**Objective 1. Replace Aged Facilities**

Basic services like restrooms, drinking fountains, and general maintenance were frequently cited throughout the engagement process as lacking in Spokane parks. The community desires more restrooms where they do not currently exist and expanded hours and improved maintenance at existing restroom facilities. Restrooms that are frequently cleaned improve the park experience for parents with young children, the elderly, people with disabilities, people who menstruate, and others who may need more frequent access to restrooms. Park visitors can spend more time enjoying the parks if they don’t need to leave to use the bathroom. It also provides a humane, safe, and clean place for people experiencing homelessness to practice basic hygiene and use the restroom. Parks with existing restrooms should invest in improved maintenance and be open for more hours a day and more days in a year.

Improvements to lighting, landscaping, weeding, and watering were also cited as high priorities among the community. Designing with human comfort in mind and prioritizing beauty make spaces more welcoming. The Center for Active Design’s Assembly Guidelines list four strategies to make public spaces comfortable: provide seating options, illuminate public spaces and buildings, provide water and restrooms, and tailor design to local climate. In addition to physical comforts, perceptions about safety and cleanliness influence the use of public space.

Well-maintained parks and natural lands can increase feelings of comfort, trust in local government, civic pride, and lead to increased use of facilities. To address needed capital investments, life cycle costs of parks, including maintenance costs, should be developed and considered within overall budgets to form a more complete picture of funds needed to maintain the park system in a high-quality condition. It can be tempting to identify only capital construction projects needed to enhance the breadth and depth of the parks system when taking a comprehensive look at a city’s parks and recreation assets. However, in an era of constrained city budgets and escalating construction and labor costs, it is pertinent that park system planners consider not only new park needs, but also the time, resources and staff required to maintain and upkeep both new and existing assets. This leads to better informed decisions, as these costs are more accurately weighed in relation to the fiscal realities of maintaining what already exists today.

Life cycle cost analyses require detailed and up-to-date data. Data sets related to all existing park assets building size, age, capital cost, use and features; utility usage and park assets including size, maintenance schedules (mowing, watering, etc.), asset age, and landscaping are required. An asset management plan that depicts the condition of assets is a helpful supplement to inform this analysis. Information related to these existing assets can then be used to inform the standards that are expected for each asset type; parks management plans should be developed to inform the timing and resource needs for maintenance, upgrades, and replacements.



**GOAL K: MAINTAIN AND CARE**

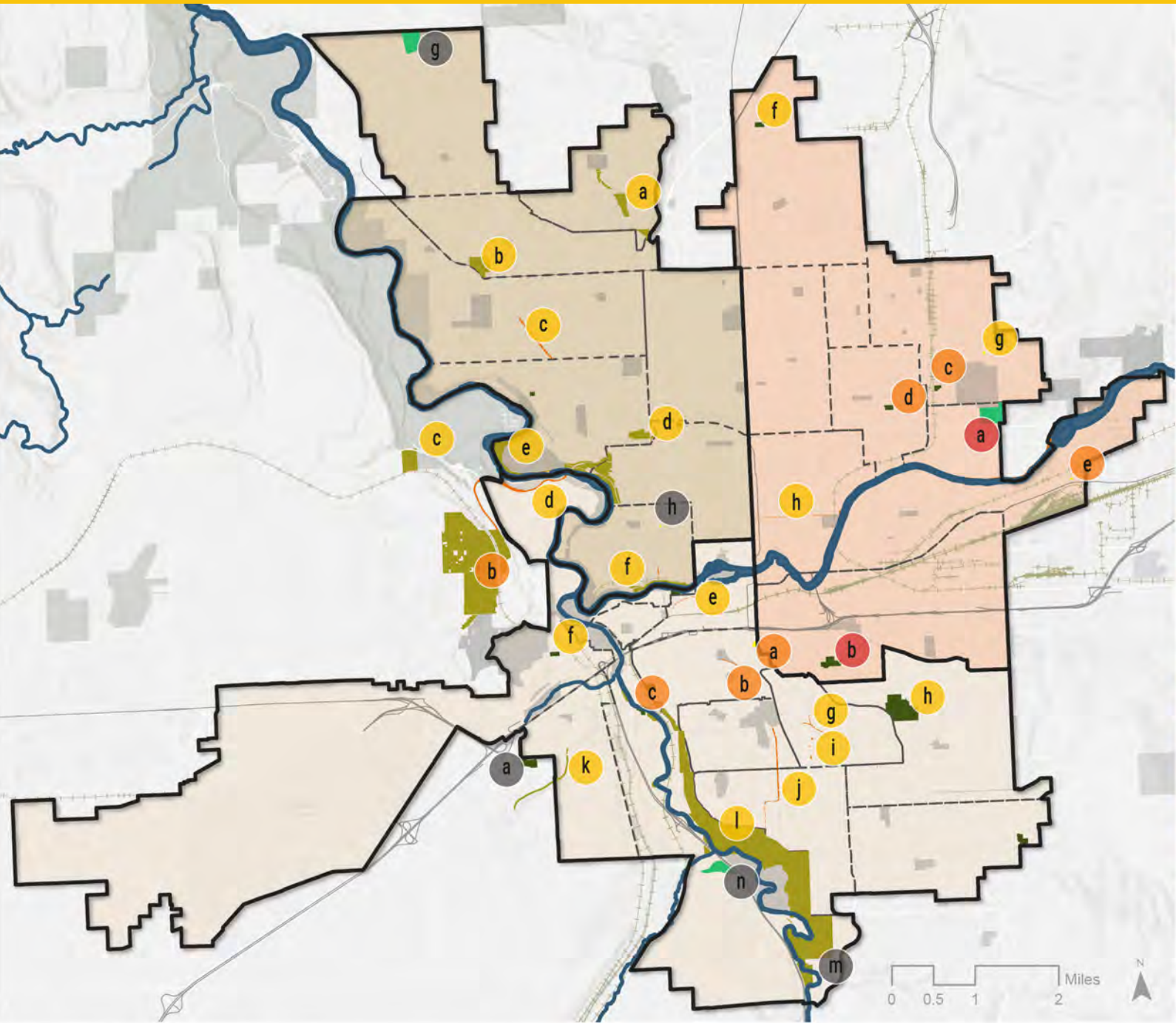
**STRATEGIES**

**Objective 1. Replace Aged Facilities**

- » Standardize maintenance practices and materials to ensure all parks receive the same level of care regardless of location. Ensure facilities are in operating condition, such as restrooms and drinking fountains, where present. In parks where these facilities are not available, capital and maintenance funding will be needed to ensure park users have access to them.
- » Update system level guidelines for, adding trash cans (and more frequent emptying of existing ones); seasonally, expanded 18-hour restroom access at neighborhood parks (March 1 - October 31) and landscaping, weeding, watering, schedules.
- » Develop life cycle cost analyses to inform needed improvements for facilities.
- » Complete an asset management plan to make specific recommendations for capital improvements. The inventory and conditional assessment of existing parks on Map 22 (found on next page) should be used to prioritize annual investments in replacement or adding features to these parks based on funding availability.
- » Establish capital replacement funding for infrastructure, such as irrigation systems or bridges.



Map 22: Potential Investment Park Properties



District 1

- a Minnehaha Park
- b Grant Park
- c Wildhorse Park
- d Courtland Park
- e Parkwater Park
- f Hill N'Dale Rotary Park
- g Loren Kondo Park
- h Mission Avenue Parkway

District 2

- a Cowley Park
- b Cliff Drive Parkway
- c Wentel Grant Park
- d Elliot Drive Parkway
- e Riverside-Cedar Parkway
- f Whittier Park
- g Rockwood Boulevard Parkway
- h Lincoln Park
- i Garfield Road Parkway
- j Manito Boulevard Parkway
- k Reimer Park
- l High Drive Park
- m Campion Park
- n Qualchan Hills Park

District 3

- a Austin Ravine Park
- b Wyakin Park
- c Driscoll Boulevard Parkway
- d Drumheller Springs Park
- e Downriver Park
- f Herbert M. Hamblen Park
- g Meadowglen Park
- h Skeet-So-Mish Park

Out of District

- a Sterling Heights Park
- b Palisades Park
- c Romine Park

Potential Investment

Parks with \$0 previous investment and park condition rating of 3, 4, or 5

- Complete Replacement Required
- Major Facility Damage
- Minor Facility Damage
- Undeveloped Park

\* Parks that have received significant investments over the last 20 years or in good condition are not included.

Park Classification

- Natural Lands
- Community Park
- Neighborhood Park
- Pocket Park
- Parkway
- Other Spokane Parks

- Spokane Neighborhoods
- Highways
- Railroads
- Water Bodies
- District 1
- District 2
- District 3

Source: City of Spokane, City of Spokane GIS data 2021, Spokane County GIS Data



“It is convenient to designate as boulevards such ways as are formal in character and as parkways such ways as are more or less informal. In both boulevards and parkways there must be a distinct quality of luxury and width and beauty of turf and trees, and in the latter there must be some landscape feature or naturalistic landscape gardening.”

-1913  
Olmsted  
Report



Manito Boulevard Parkway, Source: Reddit user myk\_ed

**Objective 2. Put The Park Back Into Parkway Boulevards**

There are 18 properties in the City of Spokane classified as parkways. Parkway are landscaped areas within the center of the street or adjacent to it. The parkways were first envisioned in Spokane’s precedent park plan created by the Olmsted brothers and were fitted for pleasure walking or driving.

These turn-of-the-century parkways are largely intact today and contribute to the charm and historic character of the neighborhoods in which they are situated. However, with long and narrow expanses of turf lawn that requires regular mowing and watering, the parkways require excessive maintenance and resources for upkeep that no longer align with the City’s sustainability goals. Because the parkways provide refuge and comfortable walking conditions adjacent to the roadway, social walking trails have been created, negating maintenance efforts and resulting in an impression that the spaces are not properly kept.

With an objective to preserve the intent and function of the parkways as originally imagined, they can be redesigned. Landscaping with native vegetation that requires less water and maintenance enhances the environmental resilience of the park property and reduces maintenance costs. Creating a pathway with opportunities for seating formalizes residents’ desires to utilize the spaces for walking, resting and socializing.



GOAL K: MAINTAIN AND CARE  
**STRATEGIES**

Objective 2. Put The Park Back Into Parkway Boulevards

- » Complete pilot projects for two parkways to demonstrate different landscape treatments for improved appearance and sustainability and install walking paths.

**Objective 3. Expand Volunteerism Programs And Acknowledgment**

Spokane benefits from a high rate of volunteerism and a network of people dedicated to park upkeep and success. The city organizes volunteer programs such as ice-skating assistants, gardening activities, weed and invasive species management and events operations. Citizen-led volunteer coalitions include three “Friends of” groups, which are non-profit organizations that support specific parks (Manito Park, Palisades and High Drive Bluff Park). Friends of groups are dedicated park users who take on the responsibility of maintaining parklands, coordinating activities such as trail maintenance, fire suppression, invasive plant management, tree planting, park cleanup and naturalist events. These are great models to build upon to increase and support a culture of community stewardship for park spaces. Additional acknowledgment and public accolades help to build moral and enthusiasm for these efforts.



GOAL K: MAINTAIN AND CARE

**STRATEGIES**

Objective 3. Expand Volunteerism Programs And Acknowledgement.

- » Explore partnership opportunities to build Friends of and Trail Ambassador groups, as well as with business- and community-oriented support such as Neighborhood Councils, Greater Spokane Incorporated, Tribal organizations, after school programs, corporate sponsorships, and Continuum of Care.
- » Explore opportunities to connect Friends of groups to share resources and best practices.
- » Prioritize staffing to lead, coordinate, and train the volunteer effort.
- » Identify projects that can be executed in one day, such as river cleanup events, forest management activities or tree plantings; reward volunteers with a shared meal, access to program offerings or an item that commemorates and touts the event, such as a t-shirt.
- » Partner with others for tree planting.
- » Host quarterly training sessions to teach volunteers best practices for environmental stewardship, creating a culture that honors diversity and inclusion in parks spaces and supporting awareness and responsiveness for public safety.
- » Host regular special events to honor and recognize volunteers for their efforts.
- » Identify local champions, residents who are passionate about parks or a specific aspect of the department. Utilize their excitement and personal networks to expand lists of volunteers. An example in Spokane is the pickleball community, who consistently recruit 20-50 volunteers for their events. Coordinate with special interest groups to improve program offerings.
- » Create/expand online volunteer portal for easy sign-ups for groups and individuals.



**PUBLIC COMMENT**

“I would love to see educational signing in Corbin Park to highlight the unique history of this park.”

“This park [Drumheller Springs Park] is on an awesome overlook blocked by houses. A Forest Service style viewing tower would be great over here and make this underutilized park more well known. It’s so historically significant, it deserves to be more widely known.”

**Objective 4. Environmental Education And Facilities/Trails**

Parks and Recreation Department have a special role to play in offering diverse economic experiences in city parks and natural areas. Programs such as guided walks, camps, volunteer opportunities, naturalist training and special events can promote stewardship and connection to nature for all ages.

Similarly, specific park spaces can be designed in such a way to promote environmental learning. Signage that depicts topics such as plant diversity, animal habitat, sustainable building, wetlands and stream ecology and macro invertebrates promote place-based learning and a greater understanding of local ecosystems. Viewing platforms and windows enhance the experience of users. Camps and after school programs that are integrated into these spaces can engage school-aged children, while accessible walking paths and benches provide an opportunity for elders to connect with the space.



GOAL K: MAINTAIN AND CARE

**STRATEGIES**

Objective 4. Environmental Education And Facilities/Trails

- » Explore partnerships for pilot projects for school-based environmental learning camp or after school program.
- » Incorporate interpretive signage in natural land areas that are designated for high levels of visitation and recreation.

**Objective 5. Expand Programs For Improved Park Sustainability And Resilience**

In alignment with the goals of the 2021 Spokane Sustainability Action Plan and 2017 Spokane Comprehensive Plan, this plan recommends expanding programs to improve park sustainability and resilience.

**2021 SPOKANE SUSTAINABILITY ACTION PLAN GOALS FOR THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT**

1. Establish partnerships with community organizations and agencies to leverage funding and invite community input
2. Build awareness and engage the community in Natural Resources stewardship
3. Increase urban tree canopy and climate-adapted plant landscapes within the built environment
4. Protect and build climate resilience in natural spaces within Spokane



GOAL K: MAINTAIN AND CARE

**STRATEGIES**

Objective 5. Expand Programs For Improved Park Sustainability And Resilience

- » Integrate additional education and outreach programs that promote natural resources stewardship.
- » Explore possibility for nature and water center for education of community including youth.



CASE STUDY: RISE, ROCKAWAY, QUEENS, NY



Source: Rockaway Institute for Sustainability and Equity

The Rockaway Institute for Sustainability and Equity (RISE) is an environmental education program for kids and teens in Queens, New York. RISE provides civic engagement and youth development programs that advance social equity and the physical well-being of their vibrant coastal community. Through unique partnerships, such as with the Pratt Institute Graduate Center for Planning and the Environment and the New York City Department of Transportation, and programming that focuses on sustainability, environmental justice, food justice and equity, students can have a direct impact on their community. Planning efforts by RISE have resulted in the creation of a 28-acre Waterfront Park on a lot that had been an illegal dumping ground, the creation of a community hub in a dilapidated firehouse and other projects to improve the built and natural environment. RISE is one exemplary model of environmental and sustainability education for teens that Spokane can build upon or emulate.

GOAL L: FUNDING FUTURE

Funding Future looks to create a sustainable future by acquiring new funding sources and leveraging current assets. Strategies include capturing a share of revenue that parks bring to an area through the creation of Business Improvement Districts and Tax Increment Financing, as well as advocating for a larger share of the city’s general fund dedication to the Parks and Recreation Department.

Objective 1. Pursue Additional Funding Sources

The Parks and Recreation Department receives most of its funding from the City’s general fund, with some additional funding from revenues generated by its parks and recreation offerings. The Parks and Recreation Department is guaranteed a minimum 8 percent of general fund expenses for its operations. During the pandemic with City revenue greatly impacted, the general fund shrunk along with overall revenues. Additionally, as more Enterprise Funds are created and consume an increasingly larger share of the City’s total tax base, the general fund pool shrinks. These cumulative events have reduced overall city spending on parks from 2.63% of the city expenses in 2000 to 2.32% in 2021. A decrease of 0.3% in total city expenses is equivalent to approximately \$2.6M in 2021. This downward trend in city general fund contribution to parks has prompted the Parks and Recreation Division to consider diversifying its revenue sources to minimize revenue fluctuations.

Additionally, the increased value that parks bring to a neighborhood or district can be leveraged. The presence of parks increases the value of surrounding properties, it encourages further development and a more desirable place to visit or live. Large events, particularly in Riverfront Park, can have a positive impact on nearby businesses, such as F&B operations and lodging. Currently, there is not a mechanism in place to capture increased economic development with some of it going to parks that’s generated by park users or increased property values. The Parks Department, along with the city, could consider exploring the options of various types of real estate value capture. These options include:

**Tax Increment Financing (TIF)/Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone (TIRZ)** – TIF is a district designated for redevelopment where the city subsidizes companies by refunding or diverting a portion of their taxes to help finance development. Typically, businesses locate in the TIF district will see their property values rise as the district and its surrounding areas are developed. Rather than simply collecting the increased taxes, the city shares a percentage of the increase above the “base rate” (what they received prior to the increase) and the “tax increment” (the additional taxes), with a portion of the increase used for capital improvements within the district. This can be a funding options for some capital improvements and ongoing maintenance to benefit parks.

To catalyze investment in areas of the city that need attention, the Parks and Recreation Department could also align with the City to designate areas that are eligible for Tax Increment Financing (TIF). TIF is a district designated for



redevelopment where the city subsidizes companies by refunding or diverting a portion of their taxes to help finance development. Typically, businesses locate in the TIF district will see their property values rise as the district and its surrounding areas are developed. Rather than simply collecting the increased taxes, the city shares a percentage of the increase above the “base rate” (what they received prior to the increase) and the “tax increment” (the additional taxes), with a portion of the increase used for capital improvements within the district. This can be a funding options for some capital improvements and ongoing maintenance to benefit parks.

**Business Improvement District (BID)** – BID is a defined area where the businesses within a district elect to pay an additional tax (or levy) to fund projects within the defined district. The collected tax is typically used for funding services which benefits the whole district, this may include street cleaning, providing security, aesthetic improvements, capital improvements, etc. Some BIDs extend their maintenance into public parks or provide additional support in security and marketing for the district.

**Bonds/ Dedicated Users Fees/ Dedicated Tax** – Spokane Parks and Recreation successfully implemented dedicated user fees for additional capital funding of its golf courses. Similar fees should be explored for dedicated uses, particularly at the sport complexes.

**Sponsorship** – Typically, corporate sponsorships are long-term, and the corporation receives some form of recognition for contribution/support for a period. If the ‘term” is too long, it can limit other funding/sponsorship opportunities and should be limited to a relatively short period, depending on the sponsorship amount.

**Super Friends Group/Conservancy** – Consider forming a nonprofit public private partnership, a Foundation, Conservancy, or Friends Group, with the Parks Department with a park-focused mission and support. A private entity can access several fundraising opportunities to solicit funding. The nonprofit can maximize fundraising options (such as grant application, donors) by channeling funding to one entity, rather than having many smaller groups applying and competing from the same pool.

**“Adopt-a” Program** – The Adopt-a program could be for benches, or an acre of lawn, or other park amenities to provide funding to maintain and endow the care of park amenities and landscapes. Typically, a base fee is identified for each of the park element available for adoption. The sponsor will have the opportunity to select where or what they would like to “adopt”, the sponsor will receive a certificate or a plaque recognizing their donation. The funds generated from the Adopt-a program go to an endowment and can be used to help pay for ongoing maintenance of the item that have been adopted, and its surrounding landscape.



GOAL L: FUNDING FUTURE

STRATEGIES

Objective 1. Pursue Additional Funding Sources

- » Advocate for a higher percentage of general fund allocations to ensure city funding dedicated toward Parks and Recreation is consistent with the desires and expectations of the Spokane Citizens, even despite increased city enterprise fund activity.
- » Explore leveraging downtown events to stimulate the local economy. These events encourage visitors to visit and spend money.
- » Explore opportunities to align parks with larger city events, to
- » Encourage park visitation, and to capture some potential spending.
- » Advocate for an allocation of the existing downtown Spokane BID toward Riverfront Park
- » Partner with other City Divisions to pursue Tax Increment Financing districts in areas of the city that would benefit from investment. Identify nearby parks that are in need of repair to set clear expectations that TIF dollars will be reinvested locally to fund needed park improvements.
- » Explore sponsorship, super friends/conservancy, and “adopt-a” programs.

GOAL M: STRATEGIC ACQUISITIONS, PARTNERSHIPS, AND REAL ESTATE MANAGEMENT

The 2020 U.S. Census data shows that Spokane County’s population increased by 9.6 percent between 2010 and 2020 and projections indicate growth will continue with 13,000 more people anticipated by 2037. Proactive steps to acquire lands for future parks is a strategic move in anticipation of population growth, increasing land costs, or limited availability. With a current level of service of 5.5 acres per 1,000 people, the City will need to develop 220 more acres of developed parkland, such as community and neighborhood parks, by 2037 to provide residents with the same level of park provision as exist today. The City currently owns 29 acres of land anticipated to become developed parks and will need to strategically acquire lands for currently underserved areas with concentrated population densities and also in areas anticipated for new residential development. See Map 23: Urban Growth Areas for an anticipation of areas of the city with policies for expansion of development.

Without an increased percentage of the city’s overall budget being allocated toward capital improvements for parks, it will be challenging for the Parks and Recreation Department to dedicate funds to system expansion while maintaining existing parklands. Partnerships with the development community to succeed in strategic acquisitions is therefore critical.





Park ribbon cutting at the Mission Park Ability Ballfield

## Objective 1. New Development Pays For Itself

The following adjustments to the City’s Municipal Code are suggested to ensure that dedication of land or funding for future parks is associated with future growth:

**Park Dedication Ordinance** – Park dedication ordinances require a certain amount of land is dedicated as open space within new developments. This type of ordinance is most often associated with large developments, like subdivisions, that occur on greenfield (undeveloped) areas. In the site planning, the developer works with the city on lot configurations to coordinate “clustered developments” and land dedicated for active and passive recreation. The construction and ongoing maintenance can be privately operated and maintained or deeded to the city. This requirement currently exists in Spokane for Planned Unit Developments (master planned developments) but not for other types of common housing types in Spokane.

Applying a Park Dedication Ordinance universally in Spokane is challenging, however; as Spokane grows, development will begin to occur more commonly as infill and in the urban area, which has limited green space/parks that can be set aside within the development. A secondary Park Impact Fee option is therefore recommended.

**Park Impact Fee** – The fee is imposed on new development on a new unit basis to pay for a portion of the costs for providing new park spaces within the project area or system-wide (based on need). The fee should account for long-term maintenance costs of public spaces and explicitly state that this would be the responsibility of the park department. This would support the Parks and Recreation Department in achieving the acquisition of the additional 220 acres of parkland that is suggested in this plan.

A precedent is set for this, as the City of Spokane currently requires a Transportation Impact Fee for new developments, under the finding that new growth creates additional demand for public streets and roadways. By requiring a fee upon the construction of new uses, the city can plan for and implement the provision of transportation facilities to service existing and future populations. The Transportation Impact Fees vary by geographic area.

While the City’s Municipal Code Chapter 17D.080 states that “property developments in the City increase the demand for and use of City streets, parks, open spaces, recreational facilities and fire protection facilities” and that “increasing demand brought about by priority development decreases the availability, productivity and usefulness of existing public facilities for present and future citizens of the City, straining municipal resources beyond their capacity,” the City does not explicitly nor universally charge impact fees for the provision or upkeep of parks, open space and recreation assets or services.



GOAL STRATEGIC ACQUISITIONS, PARTNERSHIPS, AND REAL ESTATE MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

## STRATEGIES

### Objective 1. New Development Pays For Itself

- » Revise the Spokane Municipal Land Use Code to universally define “open space” as a planned outdoor landscaped area (landscaping, grassy lawn, outdoor seating areas or play/recreation features) outside the required zone setbacks that is designated or retained for use by residents for gatherings, activities or visual enjoyment. This definition should also include a statement that roads, buildings, and other impervious surfaces cannot contribute to the area requirements, as well as a statement about the use of the property is usually included as being open to residents of the property or more generally open to the public. Creating a common definition sets expectations for park dedication ordinances and ensures a common level of service for new parks.
- » Develop a two-pronged approach that applies to all new residential developments. New developments are required a) a park dedication within the development or b) if not possible due to land constraints or otherwise, the option to pay into the broader parks and recreation system via a park impact fee.
- » Estimated maintenance costs and plans should be developed for new park construction and included in development impact fees and allocated to Spokane Parks and Recreation for maintenance of facilities available to the public.


## Objective 2. Evaluate Current Land Holdings and Potential Partnerships

Assessment of the current inventory of lands held for parks, natural lands, and parkways indicates not all properties are performing well or have potential to perform well for their intended purposes. Examples include small fragments that are not located in areas where they might contribute to becoming parks, trails or serve environmental purposes. It is recommended that these properties are studied in greater detail to determine best real estate management strategies to refine the quality of the City Parks holdings portfolio. Proposals for changing the use of lands in the parks portfolio should be considered only for parcels that due to size, location or geologic condition are unsuitable for use as developed parks or natural lands. Such proposals should not negatively impact existing park uses or affect future park development. Such proposals should result in compensation that will be used exclusively for Parks as the Park Board deems appropriate.

The Parks Department is also in need of further revenue to acquire additional park lands, develop/redevelop additional parks in strategic locations, and to



maintain and enhance levels of park service. Parks may consider and evaluate potential partnerships with other public agencies or private parties to enhance the park system. The Parks Department should develop a policy to objectively evaluate such partnerships to ensure they result in a ‘net improvement’ to city park lands and recreation offerings for typical park users. These partnerships should be considered on a case-by-case basis, with public input when Park Board deems necessary, for approval by the Park Board and may be considered a ‘net improvement’ so long as a net increase in park lands, park usage, or park service can be demonstrated and quantified. For example, if a potential project partner proposes a one or two acre portion of existing park land be utilized for a new library and offers sufficient funding to either purchase five or ten acres of new park land, or significantly improve the other park lands, parks should consider accepting the proposal. The same policy should be applied to leasing arrangements on park lands. If, for example, a project partner proposes leasing park land for a specific recreational use, and the park land is unprogrammed, under-utilized or in poor condition, a lease in exchange for compensation which is sufficient to permit significant enhancement of park lands or purchase of new park lands may be approved. Parks should remain flexible in its evaluation of partnerships and proposals for a variety of uses so long as partnerships are consistent with the Spokane Park Board mission and the goals and objectives of this plan, and ensure a quantifiable ‘net improvement’ to City park lands and recreation offerings.



GOAL M: STRATEGIC ACQUISITIONS, PARTNERSHIPS, AND REAL ESTATE MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

**STRATEGIES**

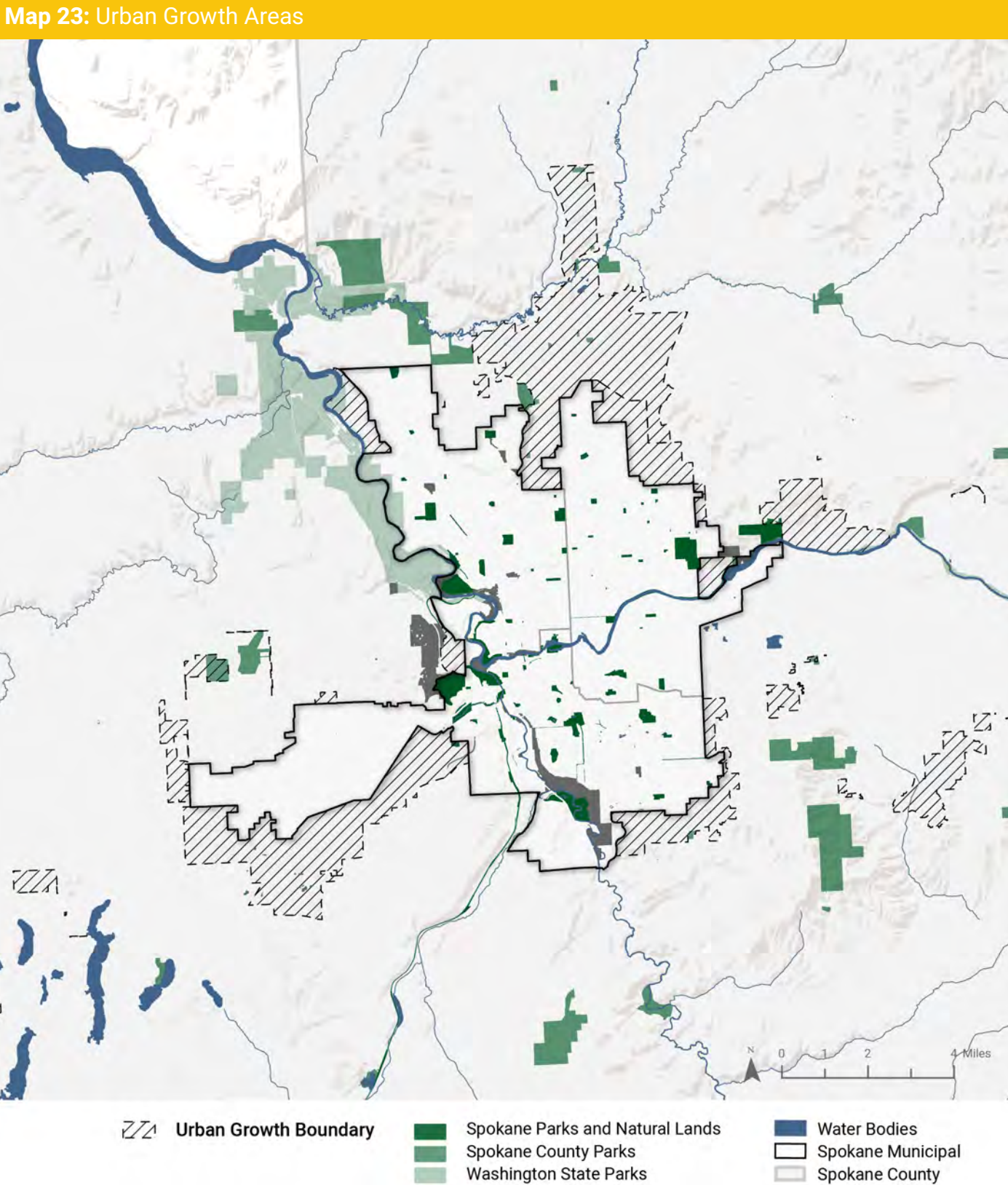
Objective 2. Evaluate Current Land Holdings and Potential Partnerships

- » Initiate a study to evaluate the significance, contribution and value of current land holdings and develop a subsequent real estate strategy.
- » Develop a process and objective criteria by which the parks department evaluates proposals for land leasing and land use partnerships, ensuring partnerships are consistent with the Spokane Park Board Mission and the goals and objectives of this plan and result in ‘net improvement’ to City park lands and recreation offerings.

WHAT WE HEARD: LEGACY

**78%** of respondents think the City should acquire additional natural lands

**60%** of respondents felt the City should seek additional funding to create and maintain its existing offerings







Community leaders break ground on a new project





# 7

## IMPLEMENTING THE PLAN

- Framework for Prioritizing Investment Decisions
- Revenue Sources and Funding Opportunities
- Action Items & Vision Map
- Guidelines for Park System Expansion





Playground at Minnehaha Park



Picnic area

# CHAPTER 7. IMPLEMENTING THE PLAN

This chapter outlines a framework and direction for implementation of the Parks and Natural Lands Master Plan and presents potential revenue sources and funding opportunities that may be utilized by the Parks Department. It includes action Items to be taken over the course of the next ten years, and provides guiding metrics for park system expansion to meet future population growth. This chapter is intended to serve the Parks Board in guiding strategic investments over the next ten years and beyond.

## FRAMEWORK FOR PRIORITIZING INVESTMENT DECISIONS

To guide the Parks Department and Board in the difficult task of selecting projects to be funded for implementation, the following Venn diagram (Figure 7) may be used as a framework for decision making. Using the diagram and accompanying sample matrix (Table 8), projects and investment needs can be evaluated based on how well they fit within four areas of focus: Park Condition, Equity Investment Zones, Needs and Level of Service, and Opportunities.



The following data, maps, and reports are identified to assist in the evaluation process:

- » **Equity Investment Zones:** Map 15, page 76
- » **Needs and Level of Service:** Map 17: Desired Amenities by District, page 91; Level of Service Table 7, page 58; Survey Report, Appendix C
- » **Opportunities:** Opportunities cannot necessarily be defined in a table or map, as these are actions that arise out of strategic partnerships, philanthropic efforts, or development trends. Opportunities are the most fluid and are expected to change over-time given different circumstances that occur.
- » **Park Conditions:** Map 11, page 67

This plan asks Spokane residents, “What should the Parks Department do next?,” and outlines recommended action items over the next ten-plus years to complete. The framework is intended to support decision-making that is both data-driven and grounded in plan goals, while allowing for flexibility for the prioritization of projects to adjust over time as opportunities arise. Chapter 7 represents needs within the park system upon plan adoption. As additional projects are identified, this framework can be applied. The next master plan may find it necessary to re-evaluate the action items after six to ten years.



Figure 8: Prioritization Matrix

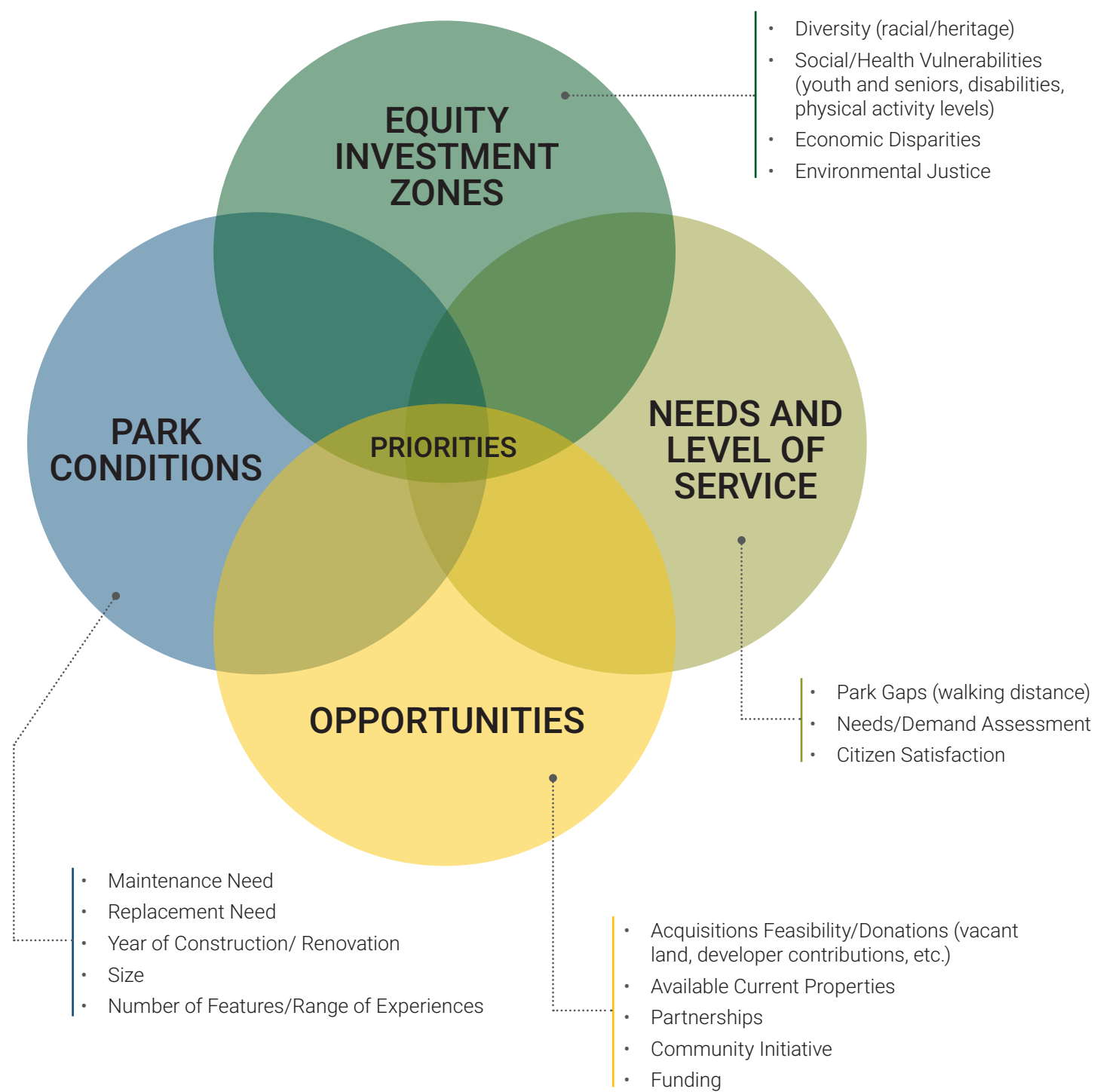


Table 8: Sample Capital Project Prioritization Evaluation

RATING CRITERIA	DESCRIPTION
PARK CONDITIONS	
Risk to Health, Safety, Environment	Physical safety hazard present. Use of asset of facility may cause failure resulting in harm to user.
Asset condition, maintenance need, annual repair costs	Improvement in parks and facilities that are in failing to poor condition. Investment required to retain asset or restore asset for continued use.
Historical Capital Investment	Level of historical park/facility investment
Quantity of existing features and range of experiences	Features and assets within park/facility
NEEDS & LEVEL OF SERVICE	
Community Identified Need	Asset or amenity identified as community desire by public input & survey. Improvement is a Tier 1, Tier 2, or Tier 3 community desire.
Technical Assessment Identified Need	Asset or amenity identified in technical system review as needed.
O&M or Programming Service Improvement	Improvement enhances maintenance & operation service delivery or recreational program service delivery, yielding cost savings or revenue increase.
Service Level Increase Using Existing Land	Improves level of park service by adding new recreation or park amenity on existing City land.
EQUITY INVESTMENT	
Social & Environmental Equity Zone	Improvement is within established social & environmental equity zones.
Geographic Park Gap	Improvement enhances neighborhood park access and is within identified park gap
OPPORTUNITIES	
Master Plan Strategic Project	Identified as strategic project is most recent park master plan update.
Unique Partnership Opportunity	Grant, partnership or sponsorship opportunity available to improve public park service.
Unique Environmental Benefit	Environmentally unique, valuable, or sensitive opportunity.
Unique Cultural Benefit	Provides historic or artistic benefit to community.



## REVENUE SOURCES AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Revenue for the Spokane Parks and Recreation Department capital and operating expenditures come from a variety of sources, including municipal taxes, grants, federal funds, corporate partnerships and philanthropic groups.

Below is a list of funding sources that have been used by the Parks Department or are anticipated to pay for existing and future maintenance of parkland, trails and natural lands, as well as to provide recreational facilities and programming to the community.

It should be noted that without park bond initiatives, the majority of the Parks Department funding comes from municipal taxes, which is an allocation of eight percent of the city’s general fund expenditures. This funding covers primarily operational needs (\$24.6 million), with a smaller portion available for capital improvements (less than \$5 million annually, based on historic spending).

**It is therefore assumed that additional funding, beyond the eight percent general fund contribution for routine, annual investment, will need to be sought for most many of the action items contained in this plan.**

Table 9: Fund Source

FUND	SOURCE
Municipal Taxes	8% of general fund expenses dedicated to the City Parks Division budget, spent on operations and capital investments.
Grants	» County: Spokane County Conservation Futures Program » State: Washington Recreation Conservation Office (RCO) » Federal: Community Development Block Grant and Neighborhoods (CDBG)
Federal Funds	American Rescue Plan appropriations
Corporate Partnerships and Developer Contributions	The City will seek partners to execute action items based on the framework that each party will cooperate to fulfill the following three tenets of good partnership: 1) the program creates a symbiotic relationship where both parties benefit; 2) there are cost sharing opportunities; and 3) the program improves levels of service for the community.
Philanthropic Groups, Fundraising and Donations	» Parks Friends Groups

## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES AND CONSTRAINTS

### Identify additional funding mechanisms outside general fund and bonds

The Parks and Recreation Department is currently limited in options for municipal finance mechanisms that other cities, particularly those that establish a Parks and Recreation District, utilize. Cities that establish a district have levee authority, which authorizes them to impose property taxes to finance park operations and improvements. Without levee authority or the specific dedication of other taxes to the department, the department must rely on grants and bonds to finance expansion. While bonds can be attributed for most of the system expansion to date, relying on bonds to fund future improvements can be risky as it is dependent on voter approval. Bonds are also tied to specific improvements and have an end date. As mentioned in previous sections, the general fund capture that is used to pay for baseline operations has decreased over time. The creation of ‘enterprise funds’ over the past 20 years pull sales tax revenues from the general fund to pay for specific (non-park) projects within the city.

### Endowment

An endowment can help set funding aside for the future, the interests it generates can be used towards the annual operating expenses. However, a significant amount of money will need to be raised in order to generate

an impact amount of interests. Assuming a 5 percent distribution annually, in order to generate \$1 million in interests, the Parks Department will need a minimum \$20 million in endowment. Realistically, the distribution percentage may actually be lower, which means the endowment will need to be even bigger to make it a reliable source of income.

### State grants offer opportunities to fund recreation and land acquisitions for conservation

The State of Washington Recreation Conservation Office (RCO) offers local agencies the opportunity to compete for grant funding that help pay for building and renovating parks, trails, waterfront access opportunities and other outdoor spaces. The state agency also provides grants to protect and restore land for animal habitat, forest conservation activities and land purchases for habitat and recreation purposes. This is an important fund source to consider and prepare projects accordingly in order to meet the state’s criteria for funding. Action items that could potentially be funded through an RCO grant are indicated as such in Table 10.

### Future bond initiative to focus on citywide neighborhood park improvement program to:

- » Construct 1 new park within equity zones of each district
- » Renovate 3 neighborhood parks
- » Prioritize community desires
- » Renovate 3 trail heads
- » Replace antiquated park irrigation systems to improve level of service and increase water use efficiency



ACTION ITEMS EXPLAINED

This section outlines specific action items to support the strategies contained in Chapters 3-6. Per State requirements, priority projects for near-term implementation are identified along with a discussion of how this plan informs the city’s Capital Improvement Plan. These Action Items are near-term, initial first steps to complete and are not intended to serve as a detailed step-by-step process but rather a means to get the Parks Department started.

It is anticipated that partnerships will occur to execute action items. Likely partners include private interest groups, public agencies, other City Divisions and City Council, neighborhoods and non-profit organizations.

Action Items are categorized by whether they require capital investment, operational shift, or policy change, defined as follows:

- » **Capital:** Improvements that are tactile and result in physical improvements to the parks system. Examples include park upgrades, investments in non-developed park properties, land acquisitions for new parks and program investments.
- » **Operational:** Structural changes that result in shifts of day-to-day management of the parks system. Examples include recommendations for grounds maintenance activities or staffing.
- » **Policy:** Efforts that result in changes to processes or lay the groundwork for future investments. Examples include planning efforts, design guidelines or policy changes that impact the entire system.

Action Items are listed by these categories and then grouped by Plan Goal. It is anticipated priorities may change based on resource availability and opportunities. Therefore, this table is for reference only in creating annual work plans that identify funding priorities.

Priority Tiers

Project tiers provide a general framework to guide park department action. It is not intended that all tier one projects must be complete prior to implementing any tier 2 or 3 projects. The Parks Department should continually evaluate and update priorities in accordance with the prioritization matrix.

- » First tier: 1-10 years
- » Second tier: 5-10 years
- » Third tier: 10+ years

Table 10: Capital Investment Action Items

CAPITAL INVESTMENTS	
Action Item	Priority Tier
INLAND NORTHWEST LIVING	
Add facilities with unmet demand in this region: dog parks, gathering spaces, disc golf, pickleball, hiking and biking facilities (including trail heads), nature play and winter activity opportunities.	
District 1	First
» Gathering spaces for picnics and BBQs	
» Dog parks	
» Nature Play: water access for kayak/raft/canoe/SUP and designated fishing areas	
» Traditional sports equipment and fields	
» Wellness and enrichment programs	
» Mountain bike park/pump tracks, skate parks	
» Disc golf courses	
» Pickleball courts	
» Paved and unpaved trails for hiking and biking. Prioritize renovation of existing trail heads, especially in Camp Sekani Park and Beacon Hill, to construction of new.	
District 2	Third
» Dog Park	
» Nature play: water access for kayak/raft/canoe/SUP	
» Therapeutic Recreation Services	
» Pickleball courts	
» Paved and unpaved trails for hiking and biking. Prioritize renovation of existing trail heads to construction of new.	
District 3	First
» Paved and unpaved trails for hiking and biking. Prioritize renovation of existing trail heads, especially in Palisades Park, to construction of new.	
» Dog parks	
» Nature Play: water access for kayak/raft/canoe/SUP	
» Pickleball courts	



CAPITAL INVESTMENTS	
Action Item	Priority Tier
<b>SERVING THE UNDER-RESOURCED</b> Filling in park gaps by building new parks and improving access to existing parks	
» <b>Shiloh Hills:</b> Identify and purchase land for development in Shiloh Hills neighborhood, east of North Nevada Street. Vacant parcels in this area present opportunities for a community or neighborhood park.	First
» <b>Lincoln Heights:</b> Take advantage of the comfortable walk conditions of this neighborhood provided by the easy-to-navigate, tight street grid. Support the development of shared use pathway(s) to serve as a bridge to homes in the eastern edge to the parks and services provided in central and western Lincoln Heights.	Second
» <b>East Central:</b> Acquire land for development for a future pocket park, east of South Ray Street.	First
» <b>Latah/Hangman:</b> The addition of a trail to and from this neighborhood would improve recreational access as well as serve as an additional access route, thereby enhancing emergency management and resiliency tactics for the neighborhood.	Second
» <b>Five Mile Prairie:</b> The city should explore updating its development fees and/or requirements to involve the dedication of land or fee in lieu of land for park purposes.	Second
» <b>Northwest:</b> Identify a paved path or walk route that creates access between suburban neighborhood and existing park properties	Second
Prioritize improvements in parks that are in failing to poor condition, lack recent investment, and are located in Equity Priority Zones: Courtland Park, Minnehaha Community Park, Liberty Park, Grant Park, Summit Boulevard Parkway, North Maple Street Parkway, Logan Peace Park  Prioritize development on vacant park properties that are located in Equity Priority Zones: Sterling Heights (District 2), Skeet-so-mish (District 3), Wildhorse (District 1)	First
<b>PARKS FOR ALL</b> Focus on neighborhood and community parks: Meadowglen, Sterling Heights and Qualchan Hills	First
Pursue additional development and future implementation of the three concept plans performed during this master plan (Minnehaha, Meadowglen, and Cowley).	First
<b>MAINTAIN AND CARE</b> Complete trail and native landscaping pilot project in Summit Boulevard Parkway and Manito Boulevard Parkway.	First
<b>PRESERVE OUR WILD</b> Using the urban forestry study completed in 2020, partner with others to prioritize tree plantings in areas of need.	First

CAPITAL INVESTMENTS	
Action Item	Priority Tier
<b>SWIM AND SPLASH</b> Identify areas for splash and spray pad investments.	Second
<b>ACTIVATE THE SPOKANE RIVER</b> Pursue the development of the following places for additional boat launches and access points for water vessels.  » TJ Meenach put-in » New facilities within High Bridge Park » New Facilities with ADA access within the Three Islands Property » Renovated or expanded facilities at Boulder Beach / Camp Sekani Park » Mission Park near the Witter Aquatics Center	Second
<b>ACTIVATE THE SPOKANE RIVER</b> Identify potential ADA water sport rentals in popular water access locations.	First



Table 11: Policy Action Items

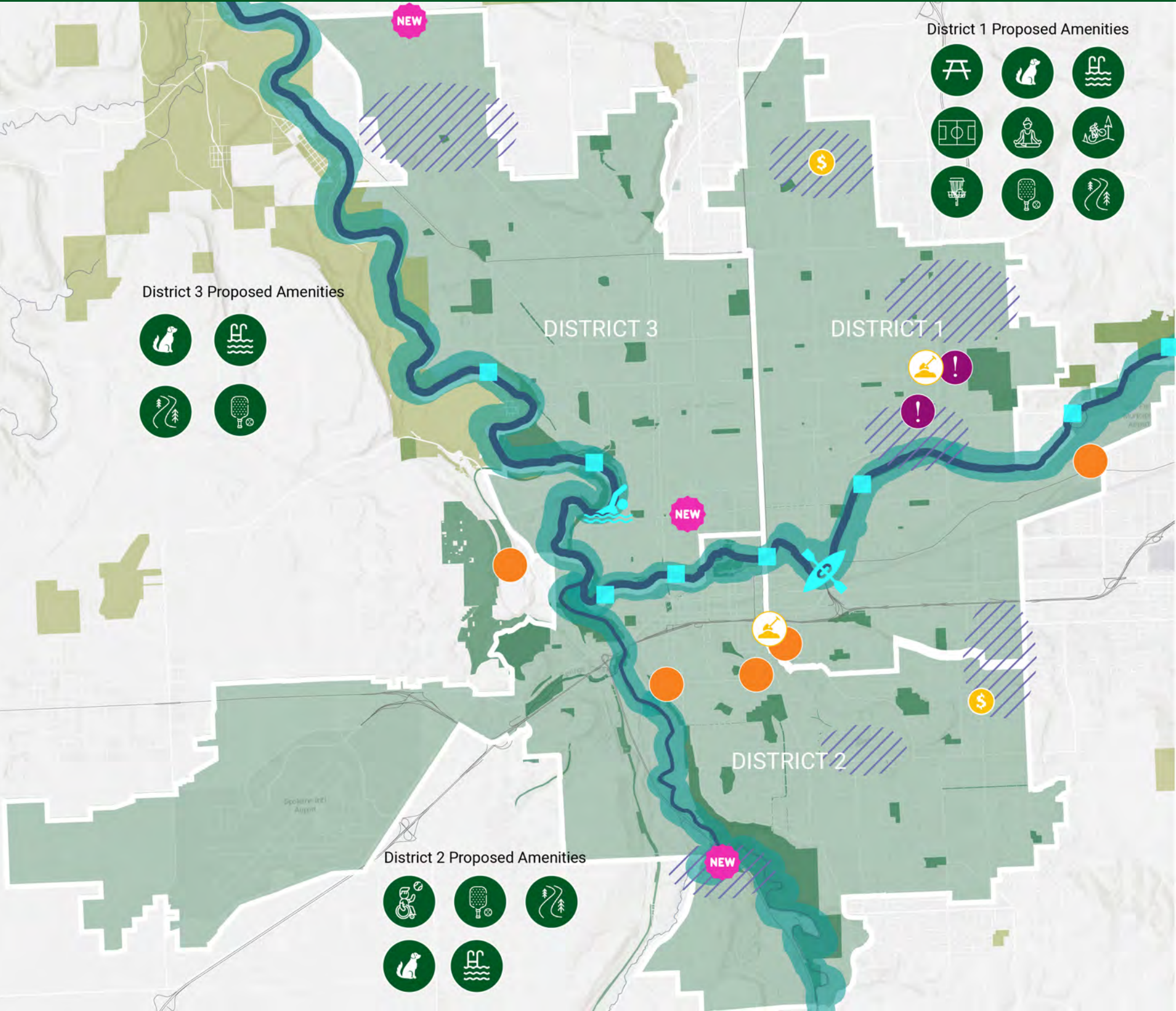
POLICY		
Action Item	Goal	Priority Tier
Complete an accessibility survey of parks, playgrounds, and other facilities to benchmark and prioritize actions for replacement.	Parks for All	First
Establish park land use and land partnership evaluation policy	Parks for All	First
Complete three neighborhood or community park plans (one in each District) following principles for culture and context sensitive planning and embedded in an overall neighborhood planning process.	Parks for All	First
Conduct a feasibility study for purchasing vacant land in locations that have a gap in parks in walking distance of residents	Serving the Under-resourced	First
Create and implement a trail master plan that considers and clearly defines trail types and user groups.	Inland Northwest Living	Second
Explore next steps for codifying development fees and/or requirements to involve the dedication of land or fee in lieu of land for park purposes across residential types.	Funding Futures	First
Develop a departmental action plan for park landscape conversions that identifies time lines and tactics for replacing existing turf with native and drought-tolerant plantings.	Preserve Our Wild	Second
Develop TS&L* design guidelines for river boardwalks.	Activate the Spokane River	Second
Complete a signage and wayfinding plan for the parks system to integrate additional languages and universal accessibility and enhance clarity in direction.	Build Awareness	First
Seek additional contribution to parks from City general fund to be dedicated to yearly capital repair and replacement to improve park condition.	Funding Futures	First
Citywide dog park survey and TS&L design guidelines	Inland Northwest Living	Second

\*Type, size and location

Table 12: Operational Shift Action Items

OPERATIONAL SHIFT		
Action Item	Goal	Priority Tier
Develop and implement a departmental trail maintenance plan with guidelines for seasonal trail clearing and brushing, trimming and invasive species management. Funding provided by the U.S. Forest Service	Preserve our Wild	Second
Explore potential fuel reduction treatments in overgrown natural areas, such as Cliff Park.	Preserve our Wild	Second
Add potential environmental education programming actions.	Preserve our Wild	First
Identify staffing needs and resources for expanding free and open swim season.	Swim and Splash	Second
Identify key partnerships for indoor swim programs. Funding provided by the YMCA, local universities and colleges	Swim and Splash	Second
Action items related marketing campaign for program offerings and partnerships with schools.	Build Awareness	First
Create more offerings within park system, specifically for teens and adults.	Diversity of Offerings	First
Action item related to compassionate response to people experiencing homelessness.	Co-existence	First
Action item related to standards for maintenance, watering, etc.	Maintain and Care	First
Establish policy for facility and equipment replacement.	Maintain and Care	Second





LEGEND

- Spokane Parks and Natural Lands
- State and County Parks and Natural Lands
- Spokane City Limits
- NEW** City-owned Parks to be Developed - Tier I  
\*Skeet-So-Mish Park, Meadowglen Park, Qualchan Hills Park
- Upgrade Minnehaha and Cowley Parks
- Acquire Land for New Parks
- Proposed Water Access Points
- Existing Water Access Points
- Riparian Habitat
- Existing Gaps - Parks Needed
- Parks Prioritized for Investment - Tier I\*  
\*Wildhorse Park, Courtland Park
- Parks Prioritized for Investment - Tier II
- Spokane River
- Latah Creek
- Highways
- \*Tier 1 parks are those that are in need of improvement and are located in an Equity Zone. Tier II projects are those that are in need of improvement and not located in an Equity Zone.

Inland Northwest Living: Desired Amenities

- Disc Golf Course
- Dog Park
- Grill and picnic area
- Mountain Bike Park/Pump Track/Skate Park
- Pickleball Court
- Sports equipment/fields (incl. running track)
- Therapeutic Recreation Services
- Trails for hiking and biking (paved and unpaved)
- Water access for kayak, raft, canoe, SUP and swim
- Wellness and Enrichment Programs





Undeveloped Meadowglen Community Park

### GUIDELINES FOR PARK SYSTEM EXPANSION

In addition to the aforementioned Action Items, the following strategies are provided to expand the existing system to meet existing and future demands.

#### IMPROVE UNDEVELOPED PARKS

The Parks Department has already been working with strategic partners to preserve the following undeveloped parks that will contribute to near-term growth of the system:

- » Meadowglen Community Park - 29 acres
- » Sterling Heights Neighborhood Park - 10 acres
- » Qualchan Hills Community Park - 28 acres

The city should prioritize efforts to improve these parks, focusing on neighborhood character and adding amenities that have been highlighted as lacking in the community, such as those found in the Inland Northwest recommendations.

### CODIFY DEVELOPER CONTRIBUTIONS

Coordination between the City of Spokane Planning Department and the Parks Department is essential to ensure the parks system can continue to expand as the population grows.

Recommendations are listed in Table 13 to provide a guideline for developer contributions per 1,000 people by the year 2037 (future population estimates sourced from 2017 Comprehensive Plan). These recommendations are based on existing levels of service, account for undeveloped parks that are planned to be developed,

and follow community preferences for expansion of the natural lands system. The municipal code will need to be revised in reference to these recommendations.

There is an increasing number of proposed residential development applications located within substandard service areas (Marshall Creek, True Property, Beacon Hill, etc.). The below contribution goals should apply to these developments and any other development proposals located in areas of substandard levels of service.

Table 13: Guidelines for Park System Expansion

DEVELOPER CONTRIBUTION GOALS OVER THE NEXT 15 YEARS			
Park type	Park acreage today / Existing Level of Service	Goal 2037	Total acreage needed
Regional	474 / 2.1	Meet regional needs through community parks	1.8 acres per 1,000 people for any new development*
Community Park	297 / 1.33	297 acres	
Neighborhood & Pocket Parks	274 / 1.23	15-20 acres	1.23 acres per 1,000 people for any new development*
Parkways	18 / 0.88	3 acres / 3 additional parkways	0.23 acres per 1,000 people for any new development*
Natural Lands	1,643 / 7	~100 acres would meet the current provision, but Spokane’s natural lands provision is behind comparable communities. Recommendation needs to be based on resources and habitat.	

\*Cash in lieu or dedication



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# **APPENDIX A: PARK INVENTORY**



# PARKLAND CLASSIFICATIONS, INVENTORY AND AMENITIES

The following is an inventory of the parks and natural lands managed by the City of Spokane’s Parks and Recreation Department.

These parks are grouped into 8 classifications that can be reviewed in Table 4. Classifications were developed based on the characteristics of the park, such as size, amenities offered, access, and length of stay. The City’s total acreage is approximately 3,800 acres. Natural lands make up the largest classification in terms of acreage with about 1,600 acres. The city also has an extensive trail network of 130 miles with 83 percent of these being natural trails. Table 5 shows the different parks classification and their acreage per population in Spokane. The data in this table presents the acreage per 1,000 residents in 2020 and 2037. The column to the far right reveals the acreage needed by 2037 to maintain the current park provision levels the City has today. With the population projected to increase by approximately 13,000 people by 2037, a total of 222 additional acres of parks will be needed by 2037 to maintain the current provision of 17.2 acres per 1,000 residents, or less than 100 acres to maintain the 5.8 acres per 1,000 residents when calculated to exclude private/undeveloped properties.

Spokane offers a broad array of amenities through its parks. Table 3 summarizes these amenities. The City’s parks offer many playgrounds (84), followed by soccer/football fields (35), baseball/softball fields (34), and basketball courts (33).

Table 1: Parks Classifications

CLASSIFICATIONS	ACREAGE
Special Use Park	248
Community Park	297
Natural Lands	1,643
Golf Course	690
Regional Park	474
Neighborhood Park	274
Pocket Park	14
Parkway	196
Total	3,863

Table 2: Trails

CLASSIFICATIONS	LENGTH
Natural Trail (Single Track)	108 Miles
Paved Trail (Wider Track)	14 Miles
Sidewalk	8 Miles
Total	130 Miles

Table 3: Park Amenities

AMENITY	QUANTITY
Basketball Courts	33
Community Gardens	4
Dog Parks	2
Playgrounds	84
Baseball/Softball Fields	34
Soccer/Football Fields	35
Unprogrammed Fields	10
Splash Pads and Pools	19
Tennis Courts	16

Table 4: Parkland Classification and Standards

SIZE	PURPOSE AND FUNCTION	SITE CHARACTERISTICS	SERVICE AREA	ACCESS
Regional Park				
80 acres or more	Provides facilities and recreational amenities intended to serve city residents as well as the surrounding region. Typically, regional parks protect large expanses of land with natural resource values of regional significance. These areas should provide recreational opportunities for nature-oriented, outdoor recreation as well as features such as playgrounds, shelters, walking trails, and athletic facilities. Botanical gardens and arboretums, winter sports, bicycle trails, theaters, and cultural exhibits could also be supported by regional parks.	Emphasis is on achieving a balance between resource protection and public use. Portions of the site should be relatively flat to accommodate fields and facilities. Effective utilization of woodlands, open lands, meadows, and particularly water features are important in the layout. Site features such as streams, lakes, reservoirs, rock outcrops, or historic sites may add to the park’s character.	Inland Northwest Region	Direct access from an arterial street and typically have direct access to regional trail systems.
Special Use Park				
Varies	Purpose built to serve a particular community need. Examples include horticultural centers/working farms, arboretums, aquatic centers, sports complexes, environmental education centers, performance areas, urban plazas, civic parks, skateboard parks, motor-cross tracks, mountain bike parks, or other specialized activity or recreation interests.	Varies based on requirements of the park purpose. Location of special use properties has to be carefully planned to ensure that access, traffic control, and lighting and noise issues do not negatively impact neighborhoods.	Entire community	In most cases, good access from an arterial or collector street.
Neighborhood Park				
4-15 acres	Intended to provide both active and passive recreation for residents for short daily leisure periods, but should provide for most intensive use by children, family groups, and senior citizens. Accessible to neighborhood population and geographically centered with safe walking and bicycle access. May be developed as a park-school facility.	On-street parking is typically adequate. Ideally, these parks are linked by pathways and sidewalks and respond to the need for basic recreational amenities close to peoples’ homes and are ideally located adjacent to schools.	Neighborhood / Less than 1/4 mile	Centrally located within neighborhoods, along collector streets, along trail or drainage corridors, or in neighborhood centers.
Community Park				
10-50 acres	Serves as a focal point for community-wide activities and provides facilities that serve a broad purpose, balancing active and passive recreation needs. Allow for group activities not feasible nor desirable at the neighborhood level due to noise, lights, traffic, etc. May include programmed sports facilities such as athletic complexes or fields, large swimming pools, multipurpose playground equipment or large play structures, informal and formal fields for youth play, paved areas for court games, trails, picnic shelters, plazas, and community buildings. Often adjoining other community oriented facilities (libraries, community centers, schools, etc). Portions of land may include areas of natural quality for outdoor recreation, such as walking, viewing, picnicking. May include natural features such as water bodies or features and gardens.	Portions of the site should have gentle topography to accommodate active sports fields and open turf areas. Special site features such as streams, lakes, reservoirs, rock outcrops, or historic sites may add to the park’s character.	2-mile service area to account for people walking, biking, or driving to parks.	Easily accessible to neighborhood served, and adjacent to school or community oriented facility when feasible.



Table 4 continued

SIZE	PURPOSE AND FUNCTION	SITE CHARACTERISTICS	SERVICE AREA	ACCESS
Pocket Park				
2 acres or less	Specialized facilities that serve a concentrated or limited population or specific group such as children or seniors. Could be provided by public or private sector.	Portions of the site should have gentle topography to accommodate play equipment, creative play areas, paved areas for team sports.	Neighborhood / Less than 1/4 mile	Centrally located within neighborhoods, along collector streets, along trail or drainage corridors, or in urban centers.
Natural Lands				
25+ acres	These areas are generally maintained in their natural state and help preserve significant views, provide wildlife sanctuaries, and preserve lands in a natural state. May support opportunities for passive recreation through recreational trails, interpretive facilities, historic and cultural exhibits, nature observation, photography, orienteering, kayaking, canoeing, floating, and fishing. These areas may also support scientific research and off-trail equestrian and bicycle use. May include above or below grade utility infrastructure when so long as land remains predominantly natural in character. Depending on site conditions, public access can be limited.	Natural land areas designed to protect environmentally sensitive features, such as steep slopes, unstable slopes, and riverfront areas, or provide 'naturalized' park setting within surrounding urban development. Use may be restricted by geography.	City or broader region	Varies
Trail/Trailheads				
N/A	A paved or unpaved surface within a designated open space corridor allowing for pedestrian and bicycle commuting and recreation use. Trails are measured by linear distance, not land area.	Paved or unpaved surfaces suitable for walking, jogging or cycling.	Neighborhood, city or broader region	Easily accessible to neighborhood served with connectivity to adjacent trails, parks, or open space.
Parkways				
	Landscaped areas of distinct quality within or adjacent to the public right of way which connect larger park spaces or which are specially fitted for pleasure walking or driving.	Widened landscaped areas generally 30 to 80 feet landscaped with turf and trees, unique landscape features or enhanced naturalistic landscaping. Often include meandering pedestrian pathways. Can include plazas of ornamental hardscape	Not Applicable	Direct access from major park with connectivity to adjacent parks and open spaces. Ideally accessible from community corridor.
Golf Courses				
140 – 250 acres for 18-hole course	Large expanses of turf grass, trees, and small water features that are maintained for the game of golf. May include trails or trail access within non-playable portions of the property so long as golf activity remains unencumbered by trail access.	Rolling terrain without overly steep sections. Appropriate soils, drainage, and water availability to support turf grass. Terrain which requires minimal earthmoving. Small water features and other natural elements add to the complexity and difficulty of the game.	City or broader region	Direct access from an arterial street is ideal. Parking should be off-street.

Table 5: Parks and Acreage per Population

PARKS	NUMBER OF PROPERTIES	PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE PROPERTY ACRES	ACRES / 1,000 POPULATION IN 2020 (223,600)*	ACRES / 1,000 POPULATION IN 2037 (236,698)*	ACRES NEEDED TO MAINTAIN CURRENT PROVISION LEVELS
Special Use Park	6	248	1	1	15
Community Park	12	297	1	1	17
Natural Lands	17	1,643	7	7	96
Golf Course	4	690	3	3	40
Regional Park	3	474	2.1	2.0	26
Neighborhood Park	32	274	1	1	16
Pocket Park	13	14	<1	<1	1
Parkway	18	196	1	1	11
Total Spokane City Natural Areas, Parks, Greenways/Trail Corridors	105	3,836	17.2	16.2	222
Total Spokane City parklands (excluding golf courses, parkways, and natural lands)	82	1,307	5.8	5.5	<100

\*Numbers were estimated following a projection of demographic trends collected from data presented by Washington State's Office of Financial Management



**Table 6:** Quantity of Parks Per Classification Per District & Neighborhood

NEIGHBORHOOD	PARKWAYS	COMMUNITY PARKS	NATURAL LANDS	NEIGHBORHOOD PARK	REGIONAL PARK	POCKET PARK	GOLF COURSE	SPECIAL USE PARK	TOTAL
District 1	2	4	1	12	0	7	1	1	28
Bemiss	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
Chief Garry Park	0	0	1	1	0	2	0	0	4
East Central	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	3
Hillyard	0	0	0	2	0	3	0	1	6
Logan	1	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	4
Minnehaha	1**	1**	0	0	0	0	1**	0	3
Nevada Heights	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	3
Shiloh Hills	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
Whitman	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
District 2	10	3	9	11	1	3	2	3	43
Browne's Addition	1	0	0	1	1**	0	0	0	3
Cliff-Cannon	0	0	1**	3	0	1	0	0	5
Comstock	1	1	1**	0	0	0	0	0	3
Grandview/Thorpe	0	0	1	1*	0	0	0	1**	3
Latah/Hangman	0	1*	2	1	1**	0	1	0	6
Lincoln Heights	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	3
Manito/Cannon Hill	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	3
Peaceful Valley	0	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	4
Riverside	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	3
Rockwood	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Southgate	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	3
West Hills	1	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	5
District 3	5	5	4	8	0	3	1	2	28
Audubon/Downriver	2	2	1	1	0	0	1	0	7
Balboa/South Indian Trail	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	2
Emerson/Garfield	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
Five Mile Prairie	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
North Hill	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	3
North Indian Trail	0	1*	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
Northwest	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	4
West Central	2	1	1**	0	0	2	0	0	6
Outside City Limits	2	0	5	1	1	0	0	0	9

\* Undeveloped Natural Lands    \*\* Parks that fall in multiple neighborhoods



Table 7: Acres of Parks Per Classification Per District & Neighborhood

NEIGHBORHOOD	PARKWAYS	COMMUNITY PARKS	NATURAL LANDS	NEIGHBORHOOD PARK	REGIONAL PARK	POCKET PARK	GOLF COURSE	SPECIAL USE PARK	TOTAL
District 1	61.84	113.53	29.54	79.38	0	7.38	163.38	2.77	457.85
Bemiss	5.54	0	0	8.31	0	0	0	0	13.85
Chief Garry Park	36	0	29.54	12	0	1.85	0	0	79.39
East Central	0	51.69	0	12.92	0	0	0	0	64.61
Hillyard	0	0	0	13.85	0	3.69	156.92	2.77	177.23
Logan	9.23	21.23	0	0	0	1.85	0	0	32.31
Minnehaha	11.08	40.61	0	0	0	0	6.46	0	58.15
Nevada Heights	0	0	0	13.85	0	0	0	0	13.85
Shiloh Hills	0	0	0	15.69	0	0	0	0	15.69
Whitman	0	0	0	2.77	0	0	0	0	2.77
District 2	36	59.07	752.28	123.69	212.3	4.62	373.83	132.92	1680.86
Browne's Addition	3.69	0	0	8.31	1.85	0	0	0	13.85
Cliff-Cannon	0	0	7.38	21.23	0	2.77	0	0	31.38
Comstock	5.54	26.77	27.69	0	0	0	0	0	60
Grandview/Thorpe	0	0	5.54	5.54*	0	0	0	6.46	17.54
Latah/Hangman	0	23.08*	610.13	2.77	102.46	0	179.07	0	917.51
Lincoln Heights	4.62	9.23	0	58.15	0	0	0	0	72
Manito/Cannon Hill	3.69	0	1.85	12	84.92	0	0	0	102.46
Peaceful Valley	0	0	52.61	2.77	0.92	1.85	0	0	58.15
Riverside	0.92	0	0	0	0	0	0	53.54	54.46
Rockwood	0.92	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.92
Southgate	0	0	14.77	7.38	0	0	0	14.77	36.92
West Hills	16.61	0	32.31	5.54	22.15	0	194.76	58.15	329.52
District 3	70.15	118.15	203.07	50.77	47.08	2.77	141.23	114.46	747.69
Audubon/Downriver	26.77	57.23	77.54	3.69	0	0	141.23	0	306.46
Balboa/South Indian Trail	0	0	26.77	5.54	0	0	0	0	32.31
Emerson/Garfield	0	0	43.38	13.85	0	0	0	0	57.23
Five Mile Prairie	0	25.85	32.31	0	0	0	0	0	58.16
North Hill	0	0	0	11.08	0	2.77	0	40.61	54.46
North Indian Trail	0	27.69*	0	4.62	0	0	0	0	32.31
Northwest	7.38	0	0	12	0	0	0	73.84	93.22
West Central	36	7.38	23.08	0	47.08	0	0	0	113.54
Outside City Limits	26.49	0	690.33	10.33	240.75	0	0	0	967.90

\* Undeveloped Natural Lands

Table 8: Households Not Within a 10-min Walk Per Neighborhood

NEIGHBORHOOD	TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS	HOUSEHOLDS OUTSIDE 10-MINUTE WALK ACCESS TO CITY-OWNED PARK	HOUSEHOLDS OUTSIDE 10-MINUTE WALK ACCESS TO CITY-OWNED, COUNTY-OWNED, STATE-OWNED, PUD PARKS, & SCHOOL PROPERTIES		
		#	%	#	%
District 1	32,267	4,720	15%	2,250	7%
Bemiss	3,155	432	14%	191	6%
Chief Garry Park	2,946	140	5%	42	1%
East Central	5,453	1,554	28%	471	9%
Hillyard	2,986	392	13%	255	9%
Logan	3,580	17	<1%	6	<1%
Minnehaha	1,681	134	8%	11	<1%
Nevada Heights	7,296	56	1%	0	0%
Shiloh Hills	3,481	1,823	52%	1,274	37%
Whitman	1,689	172	10%	0	0%
District 2	29,380	7,403	25%	4,161	14%
Browne's Addition	1,289	0	0%	0	0%
Cliff-Cannon	4,601	0	0%	0	0%
Comstock	3,141	743	24%	558	18%
Grandview/Thorpe	555	243	44%	242	44%
Latah/Hangman	2,609	2,141	82%	913	35%
Lincoln Heights	6,403	2,635	41%	1,352	21%
Manito/Cannon Hill	2,131	0	0%	0	0%
Peaceful Valley	192	0	0%	0	0%
Riverside	920	0	0%	0	0%
Rockwood	2,004	253	13%	249	12%
Southgate	4,427	885	20%	665	15%
West Hills	1,108	503	45%	182	16%
District 3	33,466	9,142	27%	4,163	12%
Audubon/Downriver	3,906	303	8%	0	0%
Balboa/South Indian Trail	2,112	795	38%	176	8%
Emerson/Garfield	5,233	1,010	19%	0	0%
Five Mile Prairie	1,979	1,194	60%	1,196	60%
North Hill	5,790	1,778	31%	59	1%
North Indian Trail	3,867	2,801	72%	2,088	54%
Northwest	5,769	1,260	22%	644	11%
West Central	4,810	1	<1%	0	0%
Total	95,113	21,265	22%	10,574	11%



**Table 9:** Park Name, Type, and Size Organized by Park Classification

NAME	TYPE	ACRES
Special Use Parks		248
Dwight Merkel Sports Complex	Sports Complex	75
Finch Arboretum	Arboretum	64
Franklin Park	Sports Complex	42
Hillyard Aquatic Center	Aquatic Center	2
Riverfront Park	Civic Park	46
Southside Sports Complex	Sports Complex	20
Community Parks		297
A.M. Cannon Park	Aquatic Center	8
Audubon Park		27
Comstock Park	Aquatic Center	26
Liberty Park	Aquatic Center	32
Meadowglen Park	Developed + Open Space	29
Minnehaha Park	Developed + Open Space	38
Mission Park	Aquatic Center	19
Qualchan Hills Park		28
Shadle Park	Aquatic Center	34
Sky Prairie Park	Developed + Open Space	26
Thornton Murphy Park		10
Underhill Park		19
Regional Parks		474
Camp Sekani Park		221
High Bridge Park		168
Manito Park	Botanical Garden	85
Golf Courses		690
Downriver Golf Course		141
Esmeralda Golf Course		164
Indian Canyon Golf Course		199
The Creek At Qualchan Golf Course		187

NAME	TYPE	ACRES
Pocket Parks		12
Cowley Park		2
Dutch Jake's Park		1
Fairview Park		<1
James J. Hill Park		2
Kehoe Park		2
Logan Peace Park		1
Loren Kondo Park		1
Parkwater Park		<1
Peaceful Valley Park		2
Riverside Triangular Park	Dog Park	<1
Ruth Park		2
Skeet-So-Mish Park		<1
Stone Park		1
Natural Lands		1,643
Austin Ravine Park	Conservation Futures	23
Campion Park	Natural Lands	23
Downriver Park	Natural Lands + Conservation Futures	113
Drumheller Springs Park	Part Conservation Futures	16
Hamblen Park	Natural Lands	8
Herbert M. Hamblen Park	Natural Lands	26
High Drive Park	Natural Lands + Conservation Futures	599
Indian Canyon Park	Natural Lands	184
Latah Creek Park	Natural Lands + Conservation Futures	11
Palisades Park	Natural Lands + Conservation Futures	401
People's Park	Natural Lands	32
Redband Park Natural Area	Natural Lands	12
Reimer Park	Conservation Futures	12
Romine Park	Conservation Futures	28
Three Islands Park	Conservation Futures	33
Upriver Park	Natural Lands + Conservation Futures	102
Wyakin Park	Natural Lands	21

NAME	TYPE	ACRES
Neighborhood Parks		274
Ben Burr Park		8
Patrick S. Byrne Park		4
Cannon Hill Park		11
Chief Garry Park		11
B.A. Clark Park		10
Cliff Park		6
Coeur d'Alene Park		11
Corbin Park		13
Courtland Park		4
Emerson Park		4
Edwidge Woldson Park		13
Friendship Park		12
Glass Park		4
Grandview Park		6
Grant Park		12
Harmon Park		11
Hays Park		9
Hill N'Dale Rotary Park		4
Indian Trail Park		4
Lincoln Park	Open space	58
Loma Vista Park		9
Nevada Park		9
Pacific Park		5
Polly Judd Park		6
Redband Neighborhood Park		4
Rochester Heights Park		4
Sterling Heights Park		10
Webster Park		2
Wentel Grant Park		4
Westgate Park		5
Whittier Park		4
Wildhorse Park		3

NAME	TYPE	ACRES
Parkways		196
21st Avenue Parkway		2
35th Avenue Parkway		6
Cliff Drive Parkway		2
Driscoll Boulevard Parkway		7
Elliot Drive Parkway		22
Fish Lake Trail	Trail	
Garfield Road Parkway		1
Manito Boulevard Parkway		9
Mission Avenue Parkway		2
North Maple Stree Parkway		0
Northwest Boulevard Parkway		29
Park Boulevard Parkway		4
Riverside-Cedar Parkway		1
Rockwood Boulevard Parkway		2
Skyview Drive Parkway		1
South Maple Street Parkway		4
Summit Boulevard Parkway		31
Upriver Drive Parkway		76



Table 10: Park Ratings Organized by Classification

NAME	CLASSIFICATION	TYPE	STAFF RATING	ACRES	DISTRICT
Camp Sekani Park	Regional Park	Natural Area / MTB Park / Portion is Conservation Futures	3.8	240.75	N/A - County (close to D1)
High Bridge Park	Regional Park	Natural Area (Some Developed)	4	167.9	2
Manito Park	Regional Park	Botanical Garden	2.8	85	2
			3.5	493.65	
Dwight Merkel Sports Complex	Special Use Park	Sports Complex	2.4	74.99	3
Finch Arboretum	Special Use Park	Arboretum	3.6	63.55	2
Franklin Park	Special Use Park	Sports Complex	3.8	41.64	3
Hillyard Aquatic Center	Special Use Park	Aquatic Center	2.2	1.93	1
Riverfront Park	Special Use Park	Civic Park / Specialized Attractions	2	46.3	2
Southeast Sports Complex	Special Use Park	Sports Complex	2.6	19.99	2
Ben Burr Park	Neighborhood Park		2.25	8.44	2
Byrne, Patrick S. Park	Neighborhood Park		2.8	3.62	1
Cannon Hill Park	Neighborhood Park		3.8	10.88	2
Chief Garry Park	Neighborhood Park	Sports Complex	2.6	10.76	1
Clark, B.A. Park	Neighborhood Park		3.2	9.92	3
Cliff Park	Neighborhood Park		3.6	5.64	2
Coeur d’Alene Park	Neighborhood Park		3.8	10.8	2
Corbin Park	Neighborhood Park		3.4	12.5	3
Courtland Park	Neighborhood Park		4	3.7	1
Emerson Park	Neighborhood Park		2.6	3.5	3
Edwidge Woldson Park	Neighborhood Park		3.8	12.6	2
Friendship Park	Neighborhood Park		2.6	11.7	1
Glass Park	Neighborhood Park		2.8	3.6	1
Grandview Park	Neighborhood Park		2	5.9	2
Grant Park	Neighborhood Park		4	11.6	1
Harmon-Shipley Park	Neighborhood Park		3.8	10.9	1
Hays Park	Neighborhood Park	Arboretum	2.4	8.85	1
Hill N'Dale Rotary Park	Neighborhood Park		3.6	4.00	1
Indian Trail Park	Neighborhood Park		2.8	3.50	3

NAME	CLASSIFICATION	TYPE	STAFF RATING	ACRES	DISTRICT
Lincoln Park	Neighborhood Park	Open Space	3.2	57.92	2
Loma Vista Park	Neighborhood Park		2.8	8.63	3
Nevada Park	Neighborhood Park		3.6	9.00	1
Pacific Park	Neighborhood Park		2.8	5.00	3
Poly Judd Park	Neighborhood Park		2.2	5.61	2
Redband Park	Neighborhood Park		3.2	3.61	2
Rochester Heights Park	Neighborhood Park		3.2	4.02	1
Sterling Heights Park	Neighborhood Park		5	10.33	N/A - County (Close to D2)
Webster Park	Neighborhood Park		3	2.30	3
Wentel Grant Park	Neighborhood Park		4.2	3.86	2
Westgate Park	Neighborhood Park		2.8	4.85	3
Whittier Park	Neighborhood Park		3.4	4.10	2
Wildhorse Park	Neighborhood Park		4.6	2.72	1
A.M. Cannon Park	Community Park		3	7.77	3
Audubon Park	Community Park		3.4	26.5	3
Comstock Park	Community Park		2.4	26.05	2
Liberty Park	Community Park		4	32.4	2
Meadowglen Park	Community Park	Future Park	5	29.49	3
Minnehaha Park	Community Park	Developed (10 ac) Natural (28 ac)	4.2	38.11	1
Mission Park	Community Park		3	19.25	1
Qualchan Hills Park	Community Park	Future Park	5	27.88	2
Shadle Park	Community Park		3.4	34.1	3
Sky Prairie Park	Community Park		2.2	26.43	3
Thornton Murphy Park	Community Park		3.4	10.00	2
Underhill Park	Community Park		2.8	19.29	2
			3.483333333	297.27	
Cowley Park	Pocket Park		4	1.8	2
Dutch Jake’s Park	Pocket Park		1	0.91	3
Fairview Park	Pocket Park		2.75	0.38	1
Hill, James J. Park	Pocket Park		3.8	1.88	1
Kehoe Park	Pocket Park		2.8	1.70	1
Logan Peace Park	Pocket Park		4	0.65	1



NAME	CLASSIFICATION	TYPE	STAFF RATING	ACRES	DISTRICT
Loren Kondo Park	Pocket Park		3	0.50	1
Parkwater Park	Pocket Park		4	0.34	1
Peaceful Valley	Pocket Park		3	2.07	3
Ruth Park	Pocket Park		2.4	2.01	3
Riverside Triangle Park	Pocket Park	Dog Park	1.5	0.30	2
Skeet-So-Mish Park	Pocket Park	Future Park	5	0.28	3
Stone Park	Pocket Park		2.4	1.20	1
			3.05	14.02	
Austin Ravine Park	Open Space	Conservation Futures	3.33	22.78	3
Campion Park	Open Space	Open Space	3.33	22.69	2
Downriver Park	Open Space	Open Space + Conservation Futures	3	112.8	3
Drumheller Springs Park	Open Space	Part Conservation Futures	3.33	16.42	3
Hamblen Park	Open Space	Open Space	1.33	8.4	2
Herbert M. Hamblen Park	Open Space	Open Space	3	25.58	3
High Drive Park	Open Space	Open Space + Conservation Futures	2.33	591.1	2
Indian Canyon Park	Open Space	Open Space	3.33	183.5	N/A - County (Close to D2)
Latah Creek Park	Open Space	Open Space + Conservation Futures	3	10.95	2
Palisades Park	Open Space	Open Space + Conservation Futures	4	400.83	N/A - County (Close to D3)
People's Park	Open Space	Open Space	3	32.1	3
Redband Park	Open Space	Open Space	2.67	12.17	2
Reimer Park	Open Space	Conservation Futures	3	12.31	2
Romine Park	Open Space	Conservation Futures	3	28.25	N/A - County (Close to D3)
Three Islands Park	Open Space	Conservation Futures	3.67	32.76	3
Upriver Park	Open Space	Open Space + Conservation Futures	2.67	102	1

NAME	CLASSIFICATION	TYPE	STAFF RATING	ACRES	DISTRICT
Wyakin Park	Open Space	Open Space	3	20.85	3
			3	1635.49	
-	Trail/Trailheads				
Downriver Golf Course	Golf Course		-	140.5	3
Esmeralda Golf Course	Golf Course		-	163.72	1
Indian Canyon Golf Course	Golf Course		-	198.98	2
The Creek at Qualchan Golf Course	Golf Course		-	187.07	2
				690.27	
21st Avenue Parkway	Parkway		2	1.5	2
29th Avenue Parkway	Parkway		2	0.3	2
35th Avenue Parkway	Parkway		2	6.07	2
Cliff Drive Parkway	Parkway		4	2	2
Driscoll Boulevard Parkway	Parkway		3	6.85	3
Elliot Drive Parkway	Parkway		3	21.75	3
Garfield Road Parkway	Parkway		3	0.67	2
Manito Boulevard Parkway	Parkway		3	8.75	2
Mission Avenue Parkway	Parkway		3	1.75	1
North Maple Street Parkway	Parkway		5	0.42	3
Northwest Boulevard Parkway	Parkway		2.67	28.55	3
Park Boulevard Parkway	Parkway		2.33	3.7	3
Riverside-Cedar Parkway	Parkway		3.67	0.7	2
Rockwood Boulevard Parkway	Parkway		3.33	2.16	2
Skyview Drive Parkway	Parkway		2	0.66	2
South Maple Street Parkway	Parkway		2.667	3.51	
Summit Boulevard Parkway	Parkway		5	31.15	3
Upriver Drive Parkway	Parkway		2.67	75.9	1



# PARK INVESTMENT TIMELINE

Bond funded projects

1999-2004	\$14.8 M	1999 Park Maintenance, Infrastructure & Expansion Bond	Renovations, land acquisition, playground replacement, aquatic facilities, restroom upgrades, skate park
2007-2011	\$44.1 M	2007 Pool & Splash Pad Bond	Aquatic facilities and special use park (Dwight Merkel Sports Complex)
2014-2020	\$14.8 M	Riverfront Park Redevelopment Bond	Riverfront Park Redevelopment





## **APPENDIX B: RECREATION TRENDS**



# INTRODUCTION

This report captures all currently available data regarding relevant outdoor recreation and analysis of what this means for Spokane’s recreation planning. Key information from this memorandum was included in the Master Plan document to highlight trends that inform recommendations for the future. Some information was also used to express the existing conditions and broad overview of opportunities in public engagement/information efforts.

This report addresses the following:

- Key Findings
- Recreational Offerings
- Parks and Open Space Provisions
- National Activity Trends
- Washington and Spokane Activity Trends
- Economic Impacts of Recreation
- Demographics and Recreational Trends
- Recreational Challenges and Opportunities

# KEY FINDINGS

- According to data provided from the City of Spokane’s trail counters, Spokane’s bike and trail network has had significant use in 2020, more than 1.2 million total users compared to 387,000 in 2019 . It should be noted that the increase in use is, at least in part, attributed to the addition of new trail counters in new parts of the city. In general, trail use has seasonal fluctuations, with the highest use between April and September.
- According to the Outdoor Industry Association, when asked about which activities they are most interested yet do not participate in, younger individuals (ages six to 24) predominantly chose fishing

and camping. People 45 and older expressed more interest in bicycling and swimming. Interestingly, this trend is similar when demographics are dissected by income. Fishing and camping are the two activities people of lower income expressed most interest in, compared to bicycling and swimming for fitness on the other side of the income spectrum. This information is important in understanding Spokane’s diverse outdoor and recreation needs.

- Information released through the Sports and Fitness Industry Association’s (SFIA) 2020 Topline Report on Sports, Fitness, and Leisure Activities reveals that the most popular sport and recreational activities include walking for fitness, treadmill, free weights, running/jogging, and hiking.
- Nationally, the most heavily participated individual and team sports for 2019 were bowling (45.4 million), golf (33.5 million) and basketball (24.2 million).
- The Outdoor Industry Association report showed that in 2019, outdoor recreation in Washington generated over \$12.3 billion, which accounts for 2 percent of the state’s gross domestic product (GDP). This made Washington’s outdoor recreation industry the eighth largest in the country. In 2019, outdoor recreation provided more than 130,000 jobs in the state of Washington, which is about 2.8 percent of the state’s employment.
- Washingtonians spend over \$1.2 billion yearly on recreational vehicles and fees, and sports, recreation, and exercise equipment; residents of Spokane spend nearly \$25 million. Spokane residents spend approximately \$52 on average per year on sports equipment, with most spending on equipment for exercise and/or hunting and fishing; the average Washingtonian spends around \$75.
- The 2018-2022 Recreation and Conservation Plan for Washington

State (RCO) report states that the top activities in Washington based on participation rate were walking; visiting rivers, streams, beaches, or tide pools; attending outdoor concerts or events; and gathering or collecting things in a nature setting.

- Experts predict that participation rates of organized sports will look different next year when the impacts of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic are realized. Activities that are suspected to show a decreased rate of participation are team sports, activities that take place indoors, and those that require close contact. When asked what activities people expect will resume to “normal” post-COVID-19, The Sports and Fitness Industry Association (SFIA) found that most respondents listed individual and outdoor sports. Only 37 percent of respondents anticipate that the return of youth sports will return in 2021 or later. The pandemic is creating a disconnect in continuity of participation in sports and programs, and it is having a disproportionate impact on disadvantaged populations. Other recreation activities that take place outdoors have in some cases witnessed an increasing level of participation. In fact, many national parks reported unprecedented numbers of visitors the summer of 2020.

# RECREATION OFFERINGS

## INTRODUCTION

Washington State has long been known for its vibrant and abundant outdoors scene. In fact, Washington’s 124 state parks, that include islands, forests, mountains, and other geographic features, attract more than 40 million annual visitors, making the state a prime destination for many outdoors enthusiasts. That is also true to the Northeast region of the

state where the City of Spokane is located. The region is the state’s only incursion with the Rocky Mountains and enjoys plenty of pristine wilderness and small-town spirit. Outdoor recreation is arguably one of the highlights that brings people to Northeast Washington. The diverse and refreshing landscapes of the region contribute to a high quality of life and are a good reason why many visit or choose to live there. Spokane, the most populated area in the region, has the potential to not only serve as the region’s recreation center point but also to offer an even higher quality of life to its own residents.

## SPOKANE AND RECREATION PROFILE

The City of Spokane supports passive and active recreation for its residents and visitors in a variety of ways. Much of Spokane’s properties focus on recreational opportunities that are desirable and compatible with their open spaces and natural settings. These include passive recreation activities, like hiking, walking, and biking which can offer constructive, restorative, and enjoyable opportunities outdoors.

Today, Spokane’s parks, open spaces, and trails offer a broad variety of outdoor recreation activities that are growing in diversity. Some of the outdoor recreational offerings include kayaking, canoeing, stand up paddleboarding, hiking, and rafting. The City’s parks and facilities also offer other activities like sports, arts, event space, and therapeutic recreation services. Residents and visitors can enjoy over 87 city parks, 4,100 acres



of protected green space, gardens, sports facilities, skate parks, dog parks, 4 golf courses, and community centers. Some of the key parks and open spaces in Spokane include the newly redeveloped Riverfront Park, Manito Park, Gaiser Conservatory, and botanical gardens such as Finch Arboretum. The City offers a plethora of recreation programs - 2,595 as of 2019, with 205 of these programs considered to be new. Spokane County also has a network of trails that offer recreation opportunities and connect to the broader region, such as Beacon Hill and Camp Sekani, the Trails at the Dwight Merkel Sports Complex, Spokane River Centennial Trail, Riverside State Park Connector Trail, Perimeter Trail, Ben Burr Trail, and Fish Lake Trail.

The City organizes their recreational offerings into seven categories.

**Aquatics**

The City operates six outdoor aquatic centers and 19 splash pads. It also offers a variety of programs including Swim Lesson programs, American Red Cross Lifeguard Training, and Water Safety Instructor courses.

**Sports**

Spokane provides a variety of sports programs and activities including Softball & Baseball, Basketball, Flag Football, Soccer, Volleyball, Tournaments, Gymnastics, Martial Arts, and the Cornhole League.

**Corbin Art**

The Corbin Art Center provides fine arts and crafts programs for children and adults. Activities offered in the center include painting, drawing, fiber

arts, crafts, skincare, soap making, photography, language, writing, personal enrichment, and cooking.

**Outdoor Recreation**

Numerous lakes, streams, and rivers in the area serve for exceptional canoeing, kayaking, and rafting. The nearby mountains are home to ski resorts that host downhill and cross-country skiing along with many snowshoe trails. The Spokane hiking, biking, and climbing areas are spectacular and the City of Spokane Parks and Recreation Program offer activities in each of these categories.

**Wellness and Enrichment**

The city offers affordable programs that help participants attain personal enrichment, self-improvement, and skill-building.

**Therapeutic**

The City’s Therapeutic Recreation Services (TRS) provides specialized and adaptive recreational activities for a broad range of people with developmental and/or physical disabilities. Though activities in other recreation departments are open to individuals with disabilities, the TRS can help facilitate the process of helping people with disabilities participate in these activities.

**Centers (Community and Senior Centers)**

The city’s affiliation with Five Community Centers, five Senior Centers in Spokane, and several non-profits brings many recreation opportunities that benefit different members of the community.

Spokane’s initial parks plan was created with the intention that the City will be a model of modern park planning. That plan was the work of the John Olmsted whose firm had designed New York City’s Central Park along other parks in the late 19th Century. Olmsted presented Spokane City’s Park System plan to the commission in 1908 and to the public in 1913. Olmsted’s vision was to transform Spokane into the “City of Parks.” This helped the City effectively establish an entire system of parks and even reserve over 2000 acres of parkland by 1920. At that point Spokane was well known as a “park city” as the Parks Commission had successfully developed one acre of park per every 58 city inhabitants. The city has maintained that legacy and commitment to its parks; its 2010 Parks and Recreation Department’s plan’s vision was:

“The City of Spokane Parks and Recreation Department will collaboratively provide the following services for the benefit of a community of people who live, work and visit the city of Spokane:

- clean, safe and eco-friendly parks, trails, conservation lands, and recreation facilities
- accessible leisure and recreational opportunities
- an enhanced urban forest.

These services will be facilitated and delivered through passionate, professional and proactive response to community issues, interests, and identified values.”

The City’s Parks and Recreation’s Division goals are to:

- Provide and promote a parks and recreation system advocating healthy lifestyles, accessibility, and the value of play
- Develop and manage the responsible, efficient, and equitable use of resources leading to the sustainability of a strong and viable parks and recreation system
- Stimulate the local economy through the provision of venues, events and activities which draw visitors and keeps local citizens close to home; well maintained and managed greenspaces that enhance property values; and the creation of employment opportunities
- Honor the history and legacy of the Spokane parks system through celebration, preservation, and restoration
- Demonstrate accountability and a collaborative culture though open communication, stakeholder participation, and transparent management practices
- Encourage a sense of community and pride through the provision of a parks and recreation system that affords citizens social gathering places and spaces.

The City has different sponsors, donors, and partnerships that help them better engage their community and more successfully utilize their assets to offer the best recreational opportunities. Table 1 shows the sponsors or donors that have offered contributions, grants, donations and in-kind support.



**Table 1:** Spokane Parks, Open Spaces, Centers and Programs with some Sponsors and Donors

Park/Location Name	Sponsor/Donor	Contribution	
System Wide	Spokane Parks Foundation	<div><div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Therapeutic Recreation Adaptive Ski Equipment &amp; Services</li><li>Finch Arboretum Lid Program</li><li>Sponsored Swim Passes &amp; Swim Lesson Scholarships</li></ul></div><div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Coeur d’Alene Park Gazebo Restoration</li><li>Havermale Restoration</li><li>Quigley Memorial Bench</li><li>Doggie Bags</li><li>Comstock Entrance Enhancements</li></ul></div></div>	
Dutch Jake’s Park Fairview Park, Emerson Park, Latah Creek, Harmon Park, Huntington Park, Rochester Heights Park, Hays Park, Emerson Park, Mission Park, Redband Park, Peaceful Valley Park Lighting, Glass Park, Byrne Park	<div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>City of Spokane Community Development Block Grant Program and Neighborhoods</li><li>The Trust for Public Lands</li><li>The Cal Ripken Sr. Foundation</li><li>Avista Utilities</li><li>Spokane Indians Youth Baseball</li><li>The Spokane River Forum</li></ul></div>	<div><div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Park Improvements at Fairview Park</li><li>Emerson Park Playground</li><li>2019 CDBG Park Pathways</li><li>Dutch Jake’s Park Renovation</li><li>Mission Park Ability Ballfield</li><li>Rochester Heights Park Pathways</li><li>Emerson Park</li></ul></div><div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Latah Creek Viewpoint Bench</li><li>Harmon Park Electrical Service Improvements</li><li>Redband Park Sculpture Plaza</li><li>Redband Park Boat Launch</li><li>Downriver Park Boat Takeout</li></ul></div></div>	
Corbin Art Center	<div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Spokane City Credit Union;</li><li>Washington Trust Bank</li></ul></div>		
Finch Arboretum		<div><div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Associated Garden Club – Dwarf Junipers</li><li>Frances Kinkade – Arbor Day</li></ul></div><div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Arboretum Care Endowment</li><li>Inland Empire District Garden Club</li></ul></div></div>	
Manito Park	The Friends of Manito	<div><div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Mirror Pond Water Quality and Emergent Plant Project</li><li>Bench &amp; Plaque</li></ul></div><div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Sidewalk Repair on 25th</li><li>Tekoa Beautification Project</li><li>Gaiser Conservatory Renovation Design Project</li><li>Associated Garden Club – 4 Grills</li></ul></div></div>	
Moore-Turner Heritage Gardens	Friends of Moore-Turner Heritage Gardens	<div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Plants</li></ul></div>	
Centennial Trail	Greenstone Homes	<div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Improvements to the Centennial Trail Through Veterans Court &amp; Kendall Yards</li></ul></div>	
Liberty Park	Hoopfest	<div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Basketball court</li></ul></div>	
Aquatic Centers	Recreation	<div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>U.S.A. Swimming Foundation-Swimming Lesson Scholarships</li><li>Andres Memorial Fund-Aquatics Program</li></ul></div>	

Park/Location Name	Sponsor/Donor		Contribution
Riverfront Park	<div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Principal Financial</li><li>Washington Trust Bank</li><li>Wheatland Bank</li><li>Downtown Spokane</li><li>River Park Square</li><li>Athleta</li><li>Tomato Street</li><li>Nordstrom</li><li>Numerica Credit Union</li><li>Senske</li><li>First Night Spokane</li></ul></div>	<div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Spokane Art School</li><li>Spokane Humane Society</li><li>Innovia Foundation</li><li>Providence Medical Group</li><li>Brett Sports</li><li>Spokane Arts Foundation</li><li>Hooptown USA</li><li>Roskelley Foundation</li><li>Garco Construction</li></ul></div>	<div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Providence Playscape</li><li>Numerica Skyride</li><li>Numerica Skate Ribbon</li><li>Hooptown USA Basketball Court</li><li>Great Floods Playground Climbing Boulder</li></ul></div>
Comstock	<div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Council President Ben Stuckart</li><li>Council Member Jon Snyder</li><li>Council Member Michael Allen</li></ul></div>		<div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Memorial benches</li></ul></div>
	<div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Feel GRS Associates, Inc</li><li>DW Sales &amp; Marketing Group- Powderhounds</li><li>Garco Building Inc</li><li>Costco</li><li>Safeway Yokes</li><li>Albertsons</li><li>Burke Distributing</li></ul></div>	<div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Spokane Horseshoe Association</li><li>Knight+s of Columbus</li><li>Urban Forestry</li><li>Washington Special Olympics Mt Spokane Ski &amp; Snowboard Resort</li></ul></div>	<div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Therapeutic services</li></ul></div>
	<div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Washington Department of Natural Resources</li><li>Utility Billing Customers – General</li><li>Jubilant HollisterStier – Reforest Spokane</li></ul></div>	<div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The Lands Council – Reforest Spokane</li><li>Suzie’s Forest</li></ul></div>	

The City’s Parks Planning department oversees the development of park properties. Spokane’s Capital budget for their Parks and Recreation department for the year 2021 is over \$8.8 million. That budget will fluctuate each year between 2021 and 2026, but the cumulative value for these five years is estimated at \$38 million; that is about 4.7 percent of the City’s overall Capital budget. Some of the larger and more costly projects include the SE Sports Complex Renovations (\$2,400,000), Edwidge Woldson Park/Cliff Drive Improvements (\$2,100,000), and the Merkel Synthetic Field Enhancements (\$1,225,000). Other Capital projects are renovations, replacements, enhancements, demolitions, and improvements for different facilities, buildings, and areas. Other undergoing projects, plans, and developments by the city include:

- Don Kardong Bridge Rehabilitation
- Finch Arboretum Master Plan
- Redband Park Renaming Proposal & Survey
- Dutch Jake’s Park
- 2014 Riverfront Park Master Plan (which in 2014 was redeveloped through a \$64 million dollar bond)
- Roadmap to the Future
- Sky Prairie Park Master Plan
- Edwidge Woldson Master Plan
- Rochester Heights Park Improvements
- Southeast Complex Master Plan
- Cochran/Downriver Stormwater and Park Draft Master Plan
- Latah Valley Hangman Creek Trail Corridor Concept Study

PARKS AND OPEN SPACE PROVISION

Spokane Properties

The City of Spokane “manages and maintains approximately 4,000 acres of land with nearly 1,000 acres in developed green space and facilities. This includes over 80 different park areas and some streetscapes such as parkways and boulevards. Spokane’s Operations holds responsibility for over 60 playgrounds, 40 restroom buildings, nearly 200 sports, 25 picnic shelters, 40 miles of trails, an equipment repair shop, and a maintenance facility. The Urban Forestry section oversees all City trees, including those in parks and the right-of-way, and Finch Arboretum. The Horticulture section manages and maintains a variety of formal gardens, Gaiser Conservatory, and greenhouses.” Table 2 lists the City’s 127 parks and assets.

Table 20: Parks, Open Space, Trails, and Facilities

LIST OF PARKS, OPEN SPACE, TRAILS, AND FACILITIES IN SPOKANE			
A.M. Cannon Aquatic Center	Downriver Golf Course	Herbert M. Hamblen Conservation Area	North Maple Street
A.M. Cannon Park	Downriver Park	High Bridge Park	Northwest Blvd.
Ashland C.A.	Driscoll Blvd.	High Drive	Pacific Park
Audubon Park	Drumheller Springs	Hill, James J. Park	Palisades
Austin Ravine C.A.	Dutch Jakes Park	Hill N’Dale Rotary Park	Park Blvd.
Ben Burr Park	Dwight Merkel Sports Complex	Hillyard Aquatic Center	Parkwater Park
Ben Burr Trail	East Central Community Center	Hillyard Senior Center	Peaceful Valley
Byrne, Patrick S. Park	Edwidge Woldson Park	Indian Canyon Golf Course	Peaceful Valley Park
Campion Park	Elliot C.A.	Indian Canyon Park	Polly Judd Park
Camp Sekani C.A.	Elliot Drive	Indian Trail Park	Qualchan Hills Park
Camp Sekani Park	Emerson Park	John A. Finch Arboretum	Reimer
Cannon Hill Park	Esmeralda Golf Course	Kehoe Park	Rimrock C.A.
Centennial Trail	Fairview Park	Liberty Aquatic Center	Riverfront Spokane
Chief Garry Park	Fish Lake Trail	Liberty Park	Riverside-Cedar
Clark, B.A. Park	Franklin Park	Lincoln Park	Rochester Heights Park
Cliff Drive	Franklin Sports Complex	Logan Peace Park	Rockwood Blvd.
Cliff Park	Friendship Park	Loma Vista Park	Romine C.A.
Coeur d’Alene Park	Garfield Road	Loren Kondo Park	Ruth Park
Comstock Aquatic Center	Glass Park	Manito Blvd.	Shadle Aquatic Center
Comstock Park	Glover Field Park	Manito Park	Shadle Park
Corbin Art Center	Grandview Park	Meadowglen Conservation	Sinto Senior Activity Center
Corbin Park	Grant Park	Meadowglen Park	Skeet-so-Mish Park
Corbin Senior Activity Center	Hamblen Park	Minnehaha Park	Sky Prairie Park
Courtland Park	Hangman Park	Mission Avenue	Skyview Drive
Cowley Park	Harmon-Shipley Park	Mission Park	Southeast Sports Complex
Creek at Qualchan Golf Course	Hays Park	Nevada Park	South Maple Street

Source: Design Workshop, Spokane GIS data



**VISITATION AND PARTICIPATION**

Spokane’s recreation offerings, programs, and services reached a significant number of residents and visitors. In 2019, the City’s more than 2,500 programs served about 20,000 participants. The City’s six aquatic centers had more than 126,000 visitors, and their sports facilities hosted more than 4,000 softball players and 1,600 volleyball players, along with more players for various other sports. The Corbin Art Center welcomed more than 900 participants in their various camp programs and the 150 Therapeutic Recreation Services volunteers gave a combined 5,000 hours of service in one year. The 10 community centers that the City is affiliated with served more than 720,000 participants with the help of 47,550 volunteer hours.

According to data provided from the City of Spokane’s trail counters, Spokane’s bike and trail network has also had a significant number of visitors in 2020, more than 1.2 million compared to the 387,000 in 2019 . Of the areas where data was collected, the University District hosts the most trail or bicycle activity; approximately 53 percent of the trips counted are in this area of the city (data collected February 2021). The Centennial Trail sees the second highest use in the City, with 700 to 800 average daily riders. In general, trail use is relatively seasonal, with the highest use between April and September.

**NATIONAL ACTIVITY TRENDS**

**OVERVIEW OF NATIONAL TRENDS**

Supplementing input from Spokane residents, a study of national recreation trends is helpful for understanding changing needs and informing decisions about the activities that may need additional accommodation in the future. Information released through the Sports and Fitness Industry Association’s (SFIA) 2020 (based on data collected in 2019) Topline Report on Sports, Fitness, and Leisure Activities reveals that the most popular sport and recreational activities include walking for fitness, treadmill, free weights, running/jogging, and hiking . Most of these activities appeal to both young and old alike, can be done in most environments, are enjoyed regardless of level of skill and have minimal economic barriers to entry. These popular activities also have appeal because of the social aspect. For example, although fitness activities are mainly self-directed, people enjoy walking and biking with other individuals because it can offer a degree of camaraderie.

The report also shows that the rate of inactivity in America has been at its lowest point in 2019 for the past six years. Nevertheless, the difference in the level of inactivity between different income groups is still a matter of concern with households making less than \$25K showing an increasing inactivity rate over the past five years.

Note that the figures from this report on national participation of organized sports will look different next year when the impacts of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic are realized. Activities that we suspect to show a decreased rate of participation are team sports and activities that take place indoors and those that require close contact. The pandemic is creating a disconnect in continuity of participation in sports and programs, and it is having a disproportionate impact on disadvantaged populations. Other recreation activities like the outdoors have in some cases witnessed an increasing level of participation. In fact, many national parks reported unprecedented numbers of visitors the summer of 2020.

**NATIONAL TRENDS IN FITNESS SPORTS**

The SFIA Report groups together aerobic, conditioning, and strength activities under Fitness Sports. This category includes activities such as walking for fitness, Cross-Training, running/jogging, yoga, and free weights. National participatory trends in fitness have experienced some strong growth in recent years. According to the SFIA report, fitness sports’ participation rates have been the highest for five consecutive years with the participation rate increasing yearly throughout that time frame. In 2019, Fitness was the most popular activity with 67 percent of survey participants indicating that they had participated in some form of fitness activity; the second most popular activity (outdoor sports) had a 51 percent participation rate . Many of these activities have become popular due to an increased interest

among people to improve their health by engaging in an active lifestyle. These activities also have very few barriers to entry – they are relatively inexpensive to participate in and can be performed by nearly anyone with no time restrictions. The most popular fitness activity by far is fitness walking, which had over 111 million participants in 2019 according to the SFIA report’s inferred forecasts. Over five years, the activities that grew most rapidly were the rowing machine (up six percent), kettle bells (up five percent), aquatic exercise (up four percent), cross-training style workouts (up four percent) and yoga (up four percent) . The increased interest in certain activities might be considered as parks aim to meet recreation needs.

**NATIONAL TRENDS IN OUTDOOR RECREATION**

The second most popular of the activity groups was outdoor sports/ recreation, with more than 51 percent of people reporting that they have participated in such activities in 2019. Much like the general fitness activities, outdoor recreation activities encourage an active lifestyle, can be performed individually or with a group, and are not limited by time restraints. In 2019, the most popular activities in the outdoor recreation category include hiking (49.6 million according to the SFIA inferred forecasts), road bicycling (39.3 million), freshwater fishing (39.1 million) and camping (28.1 million) . Outdoor recreation activities that have had large increases in participation over the past five years are BMX bicycling (up nine percent) and day hiking (up seven percent). Most activities had an increase in participation over a five-year period; only five out of the 23 activities in

the report showed a slight decline in participation rates. These activities include wildlife viewing that went down one percent over the past five years.

**NATIONAL TRENDS IN INDIVIDUAL AND TEAM SPORTS**

The most heavily participated individual and team sports for 2019 were bowling (45.4 million), golf (33.5 million) and basketball (24.2 million). The number of participants for each of these activities is well above the other activities in the other sports category . The popularity of golf and basketball can be attributed to the ability to compete with a relatively small number of participants. Golf also appeals to a wide age spectrum and is considered a life-long sport. Basketball’s success can also be attributed to the limited amount of equipment needed to participate and the limited space requirements necessary, which makes basketball the only traditional sport that can be played at many American dwellings as a driveway pickup game.

Other notable individual and team sports that were popular in 2019 include baseball, soccer, tennis, and table tennis. The activities that have seen strong growth in the past five years were cardio tennis (up nine percent), trail running (up eight percent), and pickleball (up seven percent). Ultimate frisbee experienced the largest decline in participation rates – 13 percent over the past five years. It is important to note that team sports as a category was highly popular among the Gen Z age group (people born after 2000), with participation rates of 56 percent; the second highest participation rate was

27 percent for Millennials (people born between 1980 and 1999). The Baby Boomer generation recorded the lowest participation rates in individual and team sports with participation rates reaching as low as 23 and four percent, respectively.

**NATIONAL NON-PARTICIPANT INTEREST**

The SFIA report also includes a chapter that shows which sports interest non-participants. For most age segments, fishing, camping, biking, and hiking were aspirational activities. Swimming for fitness was also a popular activity that people older than 25 years aspired to get into. When aspirational activities were viewed by income, fishing, camping, bicycling, and swimming were the top four for all income groups. Fishing and camping were most popular amongst lower income groups, whilst bicycling and swimming were at the top for higher income groups.

**NATIONAL TRENDS IN YOUTH SPORTS**

According to a National Study - Project Play: State of Play 2020 Trends in Youth Play Report – the “Top 5 Popular Sports” among youth were basketball (85 percent included it within their top 5), baseball/softball (81 percent), soccer (73 percent), football (58 percent), and volleyball (34 percent). In 2018, 16 percent of children between the ages of 6 and 12 participated in bicycling on a regular basis; that number was at 27.7% in 2008. When these activities are viewed based on participation rates on a regular basis, the activities with the highest participation rates were basketball (14 percent), baseball (14 percent), and soccer (seven percent).

Soccer participation continues to decline, while the other most popular sports for kids ages 6 to 12 either grew in participation in 2018 (baseball) or only slightly decreased (basketball).

In recent years there has been a sharp decline in the number of children playing team sports. Only 38 percent of kids aged 6 to 12 played team or individual sports on a regular basis in 2018, down from 45 percent in 2008, according to data from the Sports and Fitness Industry Association. According to the National Survey of Children’s Health, only 24 percent of youth aged 6 to 17 engage in at least 60 minutes of physical activity per day, down from 30 percent a decade earlier. Boys (28 percent) are slightly more likely than girls (20 percent) to meet this daily physical activity recommendation from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

According to data presented by the Aspen Institute, lacrosse is growing in popularity among children. Between the 14 team sports that were evaluated by the Sports and Fitness Industry Association in 2018, lacrosse had the highest percentage of newcomers and return participants (55 percent) among kids aged 6 to 12. Lacrosse is taking steps to promote multisport sampling. Even as the sport had lost 36 percent of its players from 2017, it remained with a net gain of 19 percent which was higher than any other sport, surpassing track and field (16 percent) and wrestling (11 percent).

**NATIONAL TRENDS IN PARKS AND RECREATION**

The NRPA looks annually at hot topics and trends that parks and recreation departments may see become a focus in their localities in the coming year, citing those elements in the annual Top Trends in Parks and Recreation Report. The 2020 list includes some interesting topics that may apply to Spokane:

**CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS**

The NRPA states that certain areas will face climate crises from extreme heat. Future heat waves are predicted to bring about temperatures that will exceed 115 degrees in many U.S. cities, and the NRPA claims that the “unsustainable future is not so far away.” According to numerous experts and organizations, there are plenty of challenges for parks and open space that will arise due to the extreme heat, but there are also plenty of opportunities that these spaces can offer when facing climate change. Trees and green infrastructure are recognized not only for their recreational uses but also for their importance to health and well-being, specifically in a climate-changing world. The NRPA reiterates that parks provide natural infrastructure that help communities reduce urban heat island effect and mitigate the impacts of extreme heat. They also predict that new parks, linear green spaces, and trail corridors will be designed to cool communities, as well as to provide recreational benefits. According to data from ProPublica, Spokane is among the areas that will be affected by climate change, but far less critically than others. Nevertheless, Spokane County is expected to encounter some degree of heat



changes which would yield more farm crops and perhaps benefit the region economically .

TECHNOLOGY

Another theme that continues to prevail in the NRPA's trends report is technology. For the past three years, the Association has continued to feature and discuss advancements that present parks and open spaces with opportunities and challenges. In 2020, their website discussed Micromobility Devices in Parks, such as self-balancing devices, e-rollerblades, and e-bikes, and how “mobility culture” is profoundly impacting urban design and personal transportation. According to NRPA, the traditional ways that people access parks today has been completely upended. This, in turn, has affected park planning and design standards in a plethora of ways. E-scooters, e-mountain bikes, and other motorized personal mobility devices that may be bothersome to some administrators and visitors, have opened new recreation opportunities in parks and bridged access barriers for beginners, elders, and/or people with disabilities. This has triggered different administrative actions across the nation; responses range from introducing technology barriers such as geofences while others that embraced new technologies and are even developing amenities like shared bicycle docks.

Technologies that have emerged for park administrators include beacon counters, geofencing, and drones. These technologies have shown their capacity to work as monitoring systems in parks thanks to their simplicity and relatively low cost. Many parks are free to access and

without staff; this technology can offer administrative services such as monitoring and counting park users. This data can also help administrators understand high-use areas and times of the day that visiting the park is most popular. With advances in technology, reduced prices, and greater public acceptance, drones are presenting some form of tech recreation opportunities. Nevertheless, concerns over privacy intrusions, safety violations, and disruptive activities persist. The NRPA predicts that park and recreation agencies will continue to embrace the use of technology for a variety of purposes.

PETS

Pets are another topic of importance to parks, according to the 2019 NRPA trends report. Dog parks are one of the fastest growing types of parks in the country, as the United States has more than 90 million dogs as pets. Larger dog parks have become popular destinations that contribute significantly to agency revenues and tourism.

WASHINGTON AND SPOKANE ACTIVITY TRENDS

WASHINGTON RECREATION TRENDS & POPULAR OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

The 2018-2022 Recreation and Conservation Plan for Washington State (RCO) serves as Washington’s Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). The plan’s findings indicate that at least 90 percent of Washingtonians participated in some form of outdoor recreation in 2018. The report’s complementary State of Washington 2017 Assessment of Outdoor

Recreation Demand Report states that 22 percent of people surveyed claim there were problems with the facilities for outdoor recreation in their community and 16 percent reported problems with opportunities for outdoor recreation in their community.

Table 21: Top 10 Activities Overall Based on Participation Rate

ACTIVITY	PARTICIPATION RATE
Walking - Park or trail setting	84%
Visiting rivers or streams Nature Activities	66%
Visiting a beach or tide pools Nature Activities	60%
Attending an outdoor concert or event (e.g., farmer’s market, fairs, sporting events)	58%
Gather or collect things in a nature setting (e.g., rocks, shells, plants)	54%
Day-hiking Hiking	53%
Sightseeing - Scenic or wilderness area	51%
Wildlife or nature viewing	50%
Swimming/wading at a beach - freshwater	50%
Driving or motorcycling for pleasure (note: this is on a paved surface and does not include WATV or off-roading)	46%

The report states that the top activities in Washington based on participation rate were walking; visiting rivers, streams, beaches, or tide pools; attending outdoor concerts or events; and gathering or collecting things in a nature setting, as seen in Figure 3.

Figures 4 shows data from ESRI that breaks down the participation rates of several recorded activities. The table includes Market Potential Data (MPI) that measures the probable demand for a product or service in a certain geography (in this case for Washington State), or the likelihood that an adult resident of the area will participate in certain activities when compared to the U.S. national

average. For the purposes of this metric, the national average is 100 and therefore numbers below 100 represent a lower-than-average participation rate, while numbers above 100 represent a higher-than-average participation rate. MPI data also provides a comparison between the estimated percentage of the U.S. population and local population that participate in each activity. High index numbers (100+) are significant because they demonstrate that there is a greater potential that residents will participate in programs and have a need for related facilities. The MPI and estimated participant numbers are helpful tools for estimating resident participation in identified activities

and projecting the need for facilities in the future. Readers should use caution when reading this data; the number of expected adults is not precise and excludes the important youth demographic. While the top 10 activities at the top of the table are important to note, the later 10 activities show the activities that are more popular in Washington than the national trend. These include activities like skiing, backpacking, pilates, canoeing/kayaking, and tennis.

TOP 10 ACTIVITIES BY # OF PARTICIPANTS AND 10 OTHER ACTIVITIES WITH HIGH MPI VALUES			
Product/Consumer Behavior	Expected # of Adults Participated in Last 12 months	Percent	MPI
Top 10 Activities by Participation			
Walking for exercise	1,523,489	25%	106
Swimming	1,016,837	17%	109
Hiking	853,618	14%	116
Jogging/running	833,125	14%	112
Weight lifting	707,833	12%	114
Fishing (fresh water)	675,755	11%	102
Bicycling (road)	631,129	10%	112
Yoga	579,176	10%	116
Bowling	567,768	9%	107
Golf	544,219	9%	112
Activities more Popular in Washington than National Trend			
Skiing (downhill)	181,412	3%	121
Backpacking	243,704	4%	118
Pilates	180,211	3%	116
Canoeing/kayaking	440,501	7%	114
Tennis	248,790	4%	114
Bicycling (mountain)	277,599	5%	112
Boating (power)	286,621	5%	111
Ice skating	190,498	3%	111
Soccer	279,646	5%	109
Aerobics	462,665	8%	108

Source: ESRI Business Analyst Sports + Leisure Market Potential Report and Recreation Expenditures Report 2020

Figure 4: Washington Sports and Leisure Market Potential

SPOKANE SPORT AND MARKET POTENTIAL

The table below produced from data by ESRI Business Analyst provides an input into the most popular activities in Spokane. The top section of the table marks the 10 most popular activities by number of adults who have participated in them in the past 12 months. Walking for exercise is the number one activity in Spokane. Though not as popular within the city compared to the nation, more than 41,000 individuals participate in walking for exercise, or nearly 23 percent of the population. The other activities that many adults participate in are swimming, jogging/running, fishing, weightlifting, and hiking. Most activities listed in the Sports and Leisure Market Potential report have participation rates that are lower in Spokane when compared to the national average. The second section of the table shows other activities that are also quite popular in Spokane, even though the percentage of participation is relatively low. Some of the activities that residents of the city are typically more engaged in than the national average includes softball, tennis, bowling, frisbee, soccer and baseball.

Table 22: Spokane’s Sports and Leisure Market Potential

TOP 10 ACTIVITIES BY # OF PARTICIPANTS AND 5 OTHER ACTIVITIES WITH HIGH MPI VALUES			
Product/Consumer Behavior	Expected # of Adults Participated in Last 12 months	Percent	MPI
Top 10 Activities by Participation			
Walking for exercise	41,003	23%	95
Swimming	26,233	14%	94
Jogging/running	20,826	11%	93
Fishing (fresh water)	20,667	11%	104
Weightlifting	20,538	11%	110
Hiking	20,236	11%	91
Bowling	17,201	9%	108
Bicycling (road)	16,971	9%	100
Golf	15,137	8%	104
Yoga	14,865	8%	99
Activities more Popular in Spokane than National Trend			
Softball	6,169	3%	119
Tennis	7,139	4%	109
Frisbee	7,250	4%	107
Soccer	8,034	4%	105
Baseball	7,505	4%	103

Source: ESRI Business Analyst Sports + Leisure Market Potential Report and Recreation Expenditures Report 2020



## ECONOMIC IMPACT OF RECREATION

The outdoor recreation industry has a significant role in the State of Washington’s economy. According to the Outdoor Industry Association, in 2019, outdoor recreation in Washington generated over \$12.3 billion, which accounts for 2 percent of the state’s gross domestic product (GDP). This was up almost three percent from 2018. This added value to the state’s GDP ranks Washington’s outdoor recreation industry as the eighth largest in the country. In 2019, outdoor recreation also provided more than 130,000 jobs in the state of Washington, which is about 2.8 percent of the state’s employment. This amounts to about \$6.5 billion in wages and salaries, and \$2.3 billion in State and Local Tax Revenue.

Washingtonians spend over \$1.2 billion yearly on recreational vehicles and fees, and sports, recreation, and exercise equipment; residents of Spokane spend nearly \$25 million. Residents of the state spend most on equipment for exercise, hunting and fishing; the average amount spent per indivual yearly on each of these is around \$75. Residents of Spokane spend about \$52 for similar equipment.

## DEMOGRAPHICS AND RECREATIONAL TRENDS

Spokane is a city that is socially and culturally diverse and, as the research into demographics reveals, economically diverse, as well. The City is growing at a modest pace – data from Business Analyst shows that the population will grow by 0.95

percent annually between 2020 and 2025, which is slower than the state average of 1.3 percent. Spokane has an aging population. The City’s median age will rise to 38.1 in 2025 compared to 35 in 2010; the 3.1-year difference is larger than the state’s 2.1. Nevertheless, the country’s median age is roughly around 38 which makes Spokane’s median age relatively common compared to the nation. Almost a third of the City’s population that is over 25 has either a bachelor’s, graduate, and/or professional degree. This number is slightly lower than that of the state. Spokane is also slowly growing in diversity, as racial and ethnic minorities continue to grow in population size. The Hispanic population is expected to reach 8.2 percent of the of the total population by 2025 (up from seven percent in 2020). Other racial/ethnic groups that are growing include the Asian and Black communities (predicted to make up 3.1 percent and 2.9 percent of the total population in 2025, respectively). By 2025, the Cities’ Diversity Index is predicted to increase to 42.1, up from 38.5 in 2020; the State of Washington’s diversity index is significantly higher at 61.7 in 2020. To meet the needs of the anticipated growth and demographic variety, Spokane should devise targeted strategies to reach user groups who enjoy getting outside and using parks and trails close to home.

## RECREATION TRENDS ACROSS GENERATIONS AND INCOME LEVELS

The Physical Activity Council’s 2020 annual study for sports, fitness, and recreation participation shows that fitness, outdoor, and individual sports have the highest participation rates among Americans for the

past six years at rates reaching 67 percent, 51 percent, and 45 percent, respectively. Of note, when broken down by generation, there is a significant difference in team sports popularity. Among people under 20 and people between 20 to 40 years of age, participation rates for team sports are 56 percent and 27 percent, respectively. Team sport participation is only 12 percent among people between 40 and 55 years of age and 4 percent for the individuals between 56 to 75 years of age. When asked about which activities they are most interested yet do not participate in, younger individuals (ages six to 24) predominantly chose fishing and camping. People 45 and older expressed more interest in bicycling and swimming. This information is critical in understanding Spokane’s large young and elderly populations’ outdoor and recreation needs. The report also shows how inactivity is reversely proportional to income, with individuals earning under \$25,000 showing an inactivity rate as high as 46 percent. Fishing and camping were the two activities people of lower income expressed most interest in, compared to bicycling and swimming for fitness on the other side of the income spectrum. This should influence the City’s decisions towards facilitating access to recreational opportunities to lower income communities and allocating different offerings in a more equitable manner.

According to the 2017 Healthy Aging in Parks Survey by the NRPA, 9 in 10 Parks and Recreation Agencies dedicate facilities, activities, and programing to older adults. Almost 91 percent of these agencies offer exercise classes. Other activities include arts and crafts classes

TOP 10 STATES’ OUTDOOR RECREATION VALUE ADDED		
State	Total Outdoor Recreation Value Added	Percent of Total Value Added
California	\$57.4 Billion	1.8%
Florida	\$49.1 Billion	4.4%
Texas	\$35.9 Billion	1.9%
New York	\$29.2 Billion	1.7%
Illinois	\$15.6 Billion	1.8%
Pennsylvania	\$13.2 Billion	1.6%
Georgia	\$12.4 Billion	2.0%
Washington	\$12.3 Billion	2.0%
Colorado	\$12.2 Billion	3.1%
North Carolina	\$12.1 Billion	2.0%

. Based on state level data published on bea.gov, GDP estimates were published on October 2, 2020, compensation and employment estimates were published on September 24, 2020.

(offered by 67 percent of agencies), special events and festivals specially geared for older adults (offered by 58 percent of agencies), and group walks (offered by 53 percent of agencies). These park and recreation agencies also offer many evidence-based programs for older adults; 38 percent of them offer Tai Chi: Moving for Better Balance, 29 percent offer Enhanced fitness, and 23 percent of them offer Walk With Ease. Many agencies form outside partnerships to support these offerings. Some of these partnerships are with area agencies on aging, retirement communities, senior meals providers, hospitals and doctors, and local health departments.

**YOUTH RECREATION PARTICIPATION RATES**

Youth are the most active cohort; inactivity rates in 2019 were around 18 percent for people between 6 to 17 compared to other age groups where inactivity was as high as 38 percent. This group, which today can be grouped under Gen Z, also has the highest participation rates in most sports except for fitness and water sports. The one sport category where their participation rates significantly exceed that of other groups is team sports. In 2019, 56 percent of people below the age of 20 stated they participated in team sports. The second age group after them, people between 20 and 40 years of age (Millennials), had a 27 percent team sport participation rate.

Many youths are introduced to sports and recreation through physical education and sports programs in schools. On average, American families spend \$693 per child for one sport each year. Youth who

engage with sports not only are more physically active and confident, but also gain long-term benefits including better health outcomes, greater educational attainment, and success at work. These benefits can follow them throughout their lives. Youth sports are linked to lower levels of depression; new research shows that for people with childhood trauma, playing team sports as a child can significantly reduce the likelihood of depression and anxiety later in life.

**EQUAL ACCESS TO RECREATION**

Equity is at the heart of access to youth sports. National studies demonstrate that gender, household formation, and income correlate with the likelihood and level of children’s engagement with organized sports, what sports they may play, and how long they engage in those activities. In fact, 42 percent of lower-income families cited cost as the reason their children do not play sports.

Unfortunately, across the nation there are significant disparities in who has access to youth sports opportunities, both in terms of proximity to sports fields and courts and the ability to afford registration fees. Kids from lower-income homes face increasing participation barriers. In 2018, 22 percent of children aged 6 to 12 in households with incomes under \$25,000 played sports on a regular basis, compared to 43 percent of kids from homes earning \$100,000 or more. Kids from the lowest-income homes are more than three times as likely to be physically inactive. Further, the difference between inactivity among households of the lowest and highest income grew by 140 percent

between 2012 and 2018, showing an even greater challenge to equal access to recreational opportunities.

Not all parks and open space agencies succeed at closing gaps in youth sports opportunities. For example, a third of park and recreation professionals indicate that their agencies are not always successful in locating leagues close to where kids live. This suggests that a significant number of youths who do not live within proximity to sports activities face a persistent barrier in accessing such opportunities — a situation aggravated in areas with inadequate public transportation. The result is reduced participation rates in youth sports among children living in lower income households. Furthermore, almost 95 percent of park and recreation agencies require a registration fee for youth participation in select or all organized activities; about two-thirds of agencies offer reduced fees to lower income residents. The COVID-19 pandemic has greatly exacerbated these funding challenges and put extra pressure on the ability of park and recreation agencies to offer or partner with other providers to offer low-cost youth sports programs to everyone.

**OTHER CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES TO YOUTH RECREATION**

The NRPA’s Youth Sports at Park and Recreation Agencies report highlights challenges for youth sports administrations in providing better recreational opportunities for their communities. Topping the list was the fact that these agencies did not have enough volunteer coaches or sports fields/courts. Another point was that

these agencies had to also compete with private travel sports leagues.

Other challenges picked up from the Aspen Institute’s report are highlighted in the table below, along with their corresponding responses (“The Play”). These sections suggest innovations like “prescribing” physical activity to kids, creating spaces that are tailored for free play, and even providing community-based, low-cost leagues and programs that are accessible to all kids — not just youth with the resources and ambition to participate on travel teams. The report also cites the importance of multisport as it encourages no specialization until 14 or 15 years old.

**Table 23:** 8 Strategies for 8 Challenges in Youth Sports

CHALLENGE	THE PLAY
Youth sport is organized by adults	Ask Kids What They Want
Overstructured experiences	Reintroduce Free Play
Sameness and specialization	Encourage Sport Sampling
Rising costs and commitment	Revitalize In-Town Leagues
Not enough places to play	Think Small
Too much, too soon	Design for Development
Well-meaning but untrained volunteers	Train All Coaches
Safety concerns among parents	Emphasize Prevention

Source: The Aspen Institute - Project Play. State of Play 2020 Trends in Youth Play Report



RECREATION  
CHALLENGES AND  
OPPORTUNITIES

Outdoor recreation is an important sector in Washington that touches many other business sectors. It is very much a part of the state’s identity and culture. Given how vital outdoor recreation is to the state’s identity and continued economic prosperity, SCORP identifies the state’s top priorities for outdoor recreation to ensure that it continues to grow successfully. Those priorities are connectivity, community, innovation, accommodation, and stewardship. SCORP also details the top five barriers that are negatively impacting parks and open spaces across the state, hindering participation in outdoor recreation. These are: Income Inequality, Physical Impairment, Lack of Free Time, Nobody to Go With, and Feeling Unsafe. SCORP suggests addressing these hindrances through four points:

- Understanding how different barriers can impact outdoor recreation.
- Reviewing which barriers have been identified in the SCORP.
- Investigating your community to identify existing barriers.
- Engaging your community to create an action plan for removing these barriers and preventing future barriers from occurring.

DEMOGRAPHIC  
OPPORTUNITIES

While there are challenges for outdoor recreation, there are also trends that point to opportunities. In the last few years, there has been a recognizable increase in the population’s median age in Washington and throughout the United States. Even in Spokane,

the 65 and older age group accounts for 17 percent of its population and is expected to grow the fastest of any age segment, accounting for 18.5 percent of the population by 2025. This increase will impact how parks and recreation facilities are programmed in the future. People over the age of 65 tend to gravitate toward opportunities for socialization and serving their larger communities. Focusing on providing recreational and outdoor opportunities for these residents, especially to help them stay healthy and active, has the potential to infuse parks and open spaces with dedicated participants who can help teach the next generations how to be good stewards of our public spaces.

Spokane Parks is experiencing a significant increase in the request for court sport improvements by individuals over 50, primarily for pickleball use. The Department has also experienced significant increases in requests for dog park facilities and are currently only providing two such facilities for the entire city. There is also a continual request for the addition of walking paths and trails within parks citywide. Lastly, Lacrosse has increased in demand, but advocates are less vocal than some other sport participants.

The fact that in the last 12 months about 35,000 adults in Spokane spent money on sports and recreation equipment provides an opportunity to continue to educate residents and visitors on the importance of these spaces, encourage volunteer and conservation efforts, and provide opportunities for people to spend even more time outdoors. Utilizing public/private partnerships to support and enhance outdoor recreation is another

opportunity to provide a safety net for when and if one type of funding for parks and open spaces might not be available. Figure 8 displays a breakdown of Spokane resident’s expenditure on sports and recreation equipment, revealing that residents are more likely to spend between \$250 or more for sport and recreation equipment. This information may help the City better tailor their recreation offerings to meet their resident’s expenditure trends.

Table 24: Local Participatory Market Potential Spent on Expenditure for Sports/Rec equipment in last 12 months

SPENDING RANGE	EXPECTED # OF ADULTS	PERCENT	MPI
\$1-99	11,975	6.60%	112
\$100-\$249	9,783	5.40%	96
\$250+	13,119	7.20%	97

Source: ESRI Business Analyst Sports + Leisure Market Potential Report and Recreation Expenditures Report

The economic findings of spending in the future SCORP report may show a dramatically different reality and projection of spending based on the unanticipated outcomes of COVID-19, with more people spending time recreating close to home, but also taking up new recreational pursuits or upgrading existing ones. For example, bicycle sales and repairs to older bicycles soared in 2020, which is not represented in the data reported.

THE IMPACT OF COVID-19

The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic will have a lasting impact on people and how they have come to rely heavily on close-to-home access to nature and outdoor recreation, and there will be an on-going evolution of understanding the impact and impression of the virus on the public

as it relates to public spaces. Parks and trails act as critical infrastructure to the public, serving physical, mental, and emotional needs, and, as such, opportunities for the City exist for public services. Opportunities to respond to the lingering effects of the pandemic include:

- Flexible, adaptive, and expansive outdoor spaces for classes and programming that cannot safely be provided indoors;
- Trails to fill gaps in public transportation;
- Addressing overcrowding by expanding resources in high demand areas and raising awareness of and spreading the love to less popular locations;
- Providing opportunities for “distanced” activities and addressing social isolation for vulnerable populations; and
- Address the disconnect between youth and sports and athletics, fear in managing physical interactions in youth sports, and under-served populations facing the inability to ‘pay-to-play’.

When asked what activities people expect will resume to “normal” post-COVID-19, The Sports and Fitness Industry Association (SFIA) found that most respondents listed individual and outdoor sports. Only 37 percent of respondents anticipate that the return of youth sports will return in 2021 or later. The NRPA Youth Sports at Park and Recreation Agencies report also stated that 90 percent of park and recreation professionals report that the pandemic had a significant and detrimental impact on their agencies’ youth sports programming during the summer and fall of 2020.

**TRENDS IN PRIORITIES**

Spokane will also be taking cues from SCORP and identifying its own priorities for outdoor recreation, potentially aligning with the state’s goals. The SCORP report identified five near and long-term priorities for agencies within the state to focus on. These are:

1. Sustain and Grow the Legacy of Parks, Trails, and Conservation Lands
2. Improve Equity of Parks, Trails, and Conservation Lands
3. Meet the Needs of Youth
4. Plan for Culturally Relevant Parks and Trails to Meet Changing Demographics
5. Assert Recreation and Conservation as a Vital Public Service

Each of the five priorities are met with a series of recommendations that will help the state achieve its eight Unifying Strategy Goals:

1. Build, renovate and maintain parks and trails
2. Conserve habitat
3. Support state plans, strategies, and initiatives
4. Maintain and improve mapped inventory
5. Distribute funds equitably across the state
6. Improve program outreach
7. Changes to the grant programs
8. Implement actions from: State Trails Plan, NOVA Program Plan, State Athletic Facilities Plan, and Boating Programs Plan

The City can also devise its own strategies for contending with challenges specific to Spokane, which include a growing population, housing stress, and crowding of open spaces. Looking forward, the City will have to consider the special opportunities and challenges for outdoor recreation that include:

- The City’s culturally and linguistically diverse residents who are enthusiastic about outdoor recreation in many forms;
- The County’s senior population and outdoor experiences that go beyond walking;
- The County’s youth populations and opportunities for specialized play experiences including connecting with nature and inclusive and accessible environments;
- Consideration of the high interest in nature-based activities (bird watching, “Washington Experiences”, fishing, nature exploration, etc.);
- Distribution of parks and trails across the City and access to parks and open space by different demographic groups
- Trails and regional connections;
- Crowding, which can be better understood through increased tactics in counting visitation.

Some of the unique opportunities that exist in the City include:

- Spokane is experiencing a significant increase in housing construction and development, which could provide opportunities to partner with private development to increase the quantity of parks or the quality of existing parks to improve levels of service. Public private partnerships with private developers has yielded significant improvements at a number of park facilities in the past 5 years (Southeast Sports Complex, Riverfront

Park). Through various forms of cooperation, we should encourage partnerships in expanding park and trail amenities.

- Spokane Parks has an excellent partner agency in Spokane School District 81, which also provides public, outdoor recreational amenities and has been extremely successful in securing bond funding for capital construction. Continuing and expanding this partnership and leveraging each other’s resources may yield improvements for citizens. Spokane School district is actively planning construction of a new sports stadium, which could be located directly adjacent Spokane’s Riverfront Park or Dwight Merkel Sports Complex - pending a decision by the school board of directors.
- Spokane Parks has an excellent partner in the region’s largest utility provider, Avista Utilities, particularly when considering improving public access to and around the Spokane River. Avista has constructed a major urban park for permanent public use directly adjacent Riverfront Park, and is actively engaged in constructing ‘Upriver Park’ within Spokane’s Logan neighborhood. Spokane Parks should look to continue working with Avista Utilities to envision and implement public access and recreation improvements along the entire Spokane River Corridor within the city limits.
- Spokane Parks has a partner agency in Spokane Public Libraries, which is currently constructing new libraries within existing parks. These facilities are ‘kid focused’ and provide a unique opportunity for partner programming, particularly in lower income portions of town where a library + park combination could offer an entire day of programmed activities and recreation at the same location. Spokane Parks should look to increase program offerings



- at these locations (Liberty Park, Shadle Park).
- Spokane's downtown businesses and restaurants continue to expand, even despite Covid-19, and are interested in providing more privately managed courtyard and pocket park spaces within the downtown core. There is even discussion of implementing experience-based attractions (a zipline specifically) within the downtown park lands to attract users to come visit the downtown as a whole for not only an experience-based activity but also the surrounding shops. This is an opportunity to expand the reach of parks from Riverfront Park out into the surrounding community.
- Spokane's neighborhood parks are fairly widely distributed and provide good access to public outdoor recreation within reasonable walking distances. Yet some of these facilities are aging and in need of a more significant investment than typical maintenance activity. With input from the community, the age of these facilities may actually be an opportunity to consider changing exactly what services they provide. A neighborhood park 'refresh' may be an excellent quality of life improvement for citizens city wide. Furthermore, the city owns a number of existing 'future parks'. Undeveloped land poised to meet increased need for park lands in rapidly developing portions of the city, particularly in Northwest and Southwest portions of the city. Land within these areas could be developed for significantly less cost to the taxpayer to both acquire and develop park land within developing neighborhoods.

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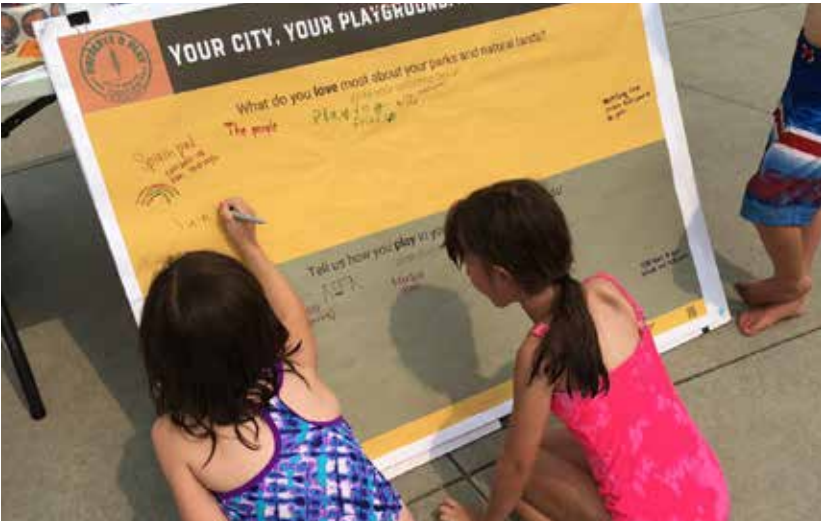






## **APPENDIX C: PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT**

# PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY



## INTRODUCTION

Extensive qualitative analysis was complemented over months of community input through various strategies including focus groups, community meetings, pop-up events, and more. Due to Spokane’s high rates of volunteerism and enthusiasm for the parks system, there was high participation. Residents were excited to share what they love about the parks and natural lands and to provide feedback on ways for the Parks Department to improve. Common themes emerged from all the engagement sessions including a desire for more equitable distribution of parks, more accessible recreation and programming, and an overall more inclusive system. The input from all the engagement efforts was analyzed side-by-side with quantitative data measuring the quantity and quality of the existing parks system to inform the recommendations in chapter three.





Except for pop-up events, which took place in the community at strategic events or parks facilities,

all engagement participants were either self-selected (such as residents who have the time and interest to attend public meetings) or there in a professional capacity, such as Park Board members. This is important to keep in mind because even though participation was high and enthusiastic, it likely does not represent the needs and desires of all those who love and use the parks. Volunteers participated as Ambassadors to encourage participation from a diverse pool of residents and included someone who had previously experienced homelessness in Spokane, NAME and NAME. Specific demographics who were not engaged but should be going forward include college students and other transient residents, and Indigenous residents. Future efforts should focus outreach on these groups and other underrepresented and under-resourced populations.

## METHODOLOGY

### FOCUS GROUPS

Over the course of six days in April 2021, a series of seven focus groups were held online. The focus group themes ranged from “Outdoor Recreation” to “Natural Lands, Ecology, Greenways.” A total of 110 individuals participated, with an average of 15 attendees per meeting. Input from the focus groups echoed sentiments from other engagement methods, notably that the existing parks and natural lands are highly valued, that diversity, access, and connectivity in existing parks and recreation offerings were highlighted as important. Participants

Date	Action	Outcome
WINTER/SPRING 2021	<div><b>Inventory and Analysis</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Focus groups and stakeholder interviews</li><li>• Review of existing resources and programs</li><li>• Benchmarking comparable communities</li><li>• Park condition analysis</li><li>• Equity analysis</li></ul></div>	<b>Foundational understanding of existing park system</b>
SUMMER 2021	<div><b>Creating a Needs Assessment</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Community surveys and pop-up events to understand residents' perspectives on values, current park use, recreational needs and opportunities for improvement</li><li>• Community feedback on inventory &amp; analysis</li></ul></div>	<b>Draft themes, goals and objectives</b>
FALL 2021	<div><b>Community and Neighborhood Workshops</b></div>	<b>Plan strategies and action items</b>
WINTER/SPRING 2022	<div><b>Create draft plan with action steps for implementation over next 10 years</b></div>	<b>Celebrate and share draft plan with community for adoption</b>





noted that the most important factors to addressing equity are ensuring parks are accessible to all incomes, ages, abilities, and within walking distance of all residents. Many people expressed desire for park utilization 365 days a year and year-round aquatics access. The lack of an indoor aquatic facility is a noted deficit though the community highly values free outdoor aquatics access in the summer months. Dog parks, pickleball, disc golf, and mountain biking rose to the top as amenities and activities that are important to residents. Participants requested upgrades like lighting to encourage evening use of facilities and a need for year-round restroom access. There is a need for balance between accommodating recreation and protecting critical habitat. The Spokane River, for example, is experiencing pressure from multiple fronts including development, recreation use, and impacts from unsheltered residents inhabiting areas along the shoreline.

There was also feedback from the focus groups that differed from what we heard through other engagement methods. Spokane has high rates of adverse childhood experiences, which

can result in behavioral challenges that can lead to low participation in programs. There is also a cultural norm of leaving trash behind. The focus groups recommended exploring partnership opportunities to form “Friends of” groups as well as business and community-oriented support such as Greater Spokane Incorporated, Tribal organizations, corporate sponsorships and Continuum of Care. The city currently does not have a park fee requirement for new developments, which could be explored. These potential partnerships could help highlight and reflect the cultural and historic characteristics of Spokane through programming, art, interpretive displays.

Participants were asked to vote on what they believe the Parks Department should focus on over the next five years. The three highest rated were:

1. Give attention to maintenance and enhancement of park facilities
2. Focus investment on undeveloped City-owned properties
3. Expand the system and acquire new lands for parks and trails

Participants were also asked to rate which locations are most in need of park additions of enhancements. The below are averages from the various groups:

1. District 1: Northeast (37%)
2. District 2: South (13%)
3. District 3: Northwest (26%)
4. In the urban growth areas/outside City of Spokane limits (24%)

## POP-UP EVENTS

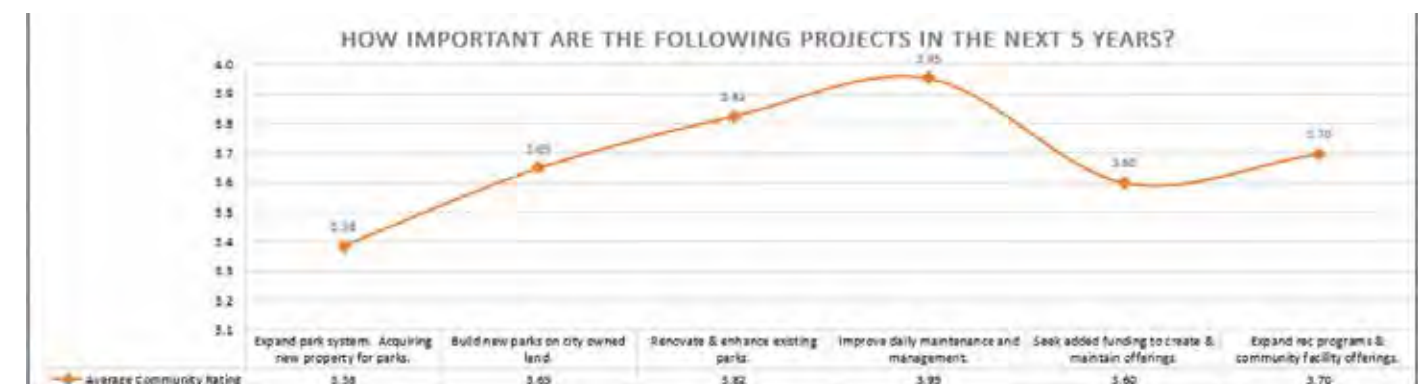
During the summer of 2021, the Parks Department hosted fourteen pop-up outreach events in the community, engaging more than 250 individuals and distributing nearly 800 flyers. The events, which included 1 Spokane Indians baseball game, 1 park concert [which park], and pop-ups at six pools, 3 parks, and 3 farmer’s markets, posed a set of questions on a preference board: ‘What outcomes improve park equity’ and ‘How important are the following projects in the next five years?’ Respondents voted for “Parks feel welcoming and safe” the most in response to the question about improving park equity. In terms of priorities, “improve daily maintenance and management” and “renovate and enhance existing parks” were the top two. The results from all fourteen events are below and results from individual events can be found in Appendix X..

## ONLINE SURVEY

Polco’s National Research Center (NRC) conducted a representative survey of residents to obtain feedback on how they prefer to use parks and natural lands in Spokane. Four thousand randomly selected residential addresses were contacted two times (a postcard followed by a letter) inviting them to complete the online survey. The invitations to participate were in English and six additional languages (Arabic, Chinese, Marshallese, Russian, Spanish, and Vietnamese). The full survey was available in all seven languages. The survey resulted in an 8 percent responses rate (329 households), which falls within the typical range for this type of survey (5-15%).

## STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

A coalition of stakeholders were engaged throughout the process in



various capacities including focus groups, advisory committees, and workshops. A totally of X meetings with X participants were held between DATE and DATE. Key findings/themes include...

**PARK BOARD**

The Park Board served in an advisory role during the process, providing input and helping to guide recommendations and priorities, reviewing deliverables at key milestones, and spreading the word to help get the community involved. Twelve out of the 14 Board members have lived in Spokane for 10 years or longer.

**PROJECT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

The Advisory Committee consisted of 12 members representing various Spokane special interests including the Park Board, Mayor’s office, City Council, Parks Department, City staff, and public schools.

**NEIGHBORHOOD WORKSHOPS**

Two Workshops were conducted with residents who live near Minnehaha and Meadowglen Parks. Minnehaha is prioritized for renovations and upgrades, while Meadowglen is currently undeveloped and prioritized as a new park. Both workshops were virtual.

**PROJECT AMBASSADORS**

Ambassadors are leaders who represent key interest groups that utilize the Spokane Park system and will benefit from its success. This group represents a diverse cross section of the Spokane community, representing various groups from neighborhood councils to those experiencing homelessness.

**Ambassador Roles & Responsibilities**

- Participate in and share public engagement opportunities for workshops and surveys within the community.
- Inform organizational and public interests about the effort.

Ambassador Role: It is essential in plan making to involve the community early in the process to help identify project values and goals. As an ambassador, it is your role to converse with the public to notify them of the master plan effort, to gather input via provided materials, and distribute public engagement materials to your channels. You may be involved in staffing pop-up event booths, sharing social media posts provided by the City, presenting to your boards/committees, notifying your professional and personal networks. These outreach options are all available to you, and which options you utilize will depend on the needs of the group you are representing and seeking feedback from. It is expected that you have a high-level understanding of the Spokane Parks and Natural Lands Master Plan process and have read through the survey questions to understand the type of feedback we are asking for in this phase of engagement.

**PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT**

Public input was integral to the formation of this plan. Because attending public meetings is not accessible for many people, it was important to go out into the community and engage directly with residents. A series of fourteen pop-up events were held over the course of six days in MONTH at parks, pools, farmers markets, and special events. [insert photos] The feedback

obtained from preference board surveys indicated that the goals of the stakeholders, namely equity and preservation, were in alignment with

the general public’s desires.

**POP-UP EVENTS**

Respondents at pop-up events indicated that improving daily maintenance and management as well as renovating and enhancing existing parks were the top two priorities for the next five years. Ensuring that parks feel welcoming and safe and that they’re accessible for all ages and abilities were important outcomes to improving park equity.

**YOUTH OUTREACH**

More than 200 kids in grades K-6 were asked for their preferences for and feedback on Minnehaha Park. A high preference was made for traditional playgrounds with swings and slides, climbing on big rocks, trees, climbing walls, and other equipment, and bicycle facilities including a BMX track.

**ONLINE MAPPING**

A virtual engagement tool, Social Pinpoint was used for the first time by Spokane Parks and Recreation on this project. The engagement resulted in thousands of public comments in five categories: maintenance, recreation, new places, structures, and nature. An overwhelming number of comments were highly complementary of the parks system and many focused on trails, access, courts, and parking.





# Parks and Natural Lands Survey of Residents

## Report of Results

October 2021

Prepared by:



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# Executive Summary

## About the Survey

The City of Spokane, WA contracted with Design Workshop to help complete an update of their Parks and Recreation Master Plan. As part of this effort, **Polco's National** Research Center (NRC) was engaged to conduct a representative survey of residents to gather feedback on their use of, and preferences for, parks and natural lands in the community. The survey was developed through an iterative process with NRC, City staff and the Design Workshop team, and was a part of a multi-faceted outreach process to gather information from the community. Other components of the initial outreach process include pop-up events, and stakeholder focus groups.

## Survey Administration

To ensure a representative sample of residents, a total of 4,000 addresses were randomly selected from a list of all residential addresses in Spokane. Each of these selected households was contacted two times (a postcard followed by a letter) to invite them to complete the survey online (using the provided URL). The invitations instructed respondents in English and six additional languages (Arabic, Chinese, Marshallese, Russian, Spanish, and Vietnamese) to complete the survey online in their preferred language. Of the 4,000 households, 329 completed the survey, providing a response rate of 8%. A typical response rate for this type of survey generally ranges from 5% to 15%. The margin of error for this Address-Sampled survey with 329 respondents is  $\pm 5.4\%$ .

Additionally, the City made concerted efforts to invite all residents to complete an Open Participation version of the survey. All questions were the same, but the data collection was kept separate so that results from the Address-Sample and the Open Participation efforts could be compared (see *Appendix D: Comparisons of Address Sample and Open Participation Survey Responses*). The City was very successful in their outreach efforts and 3,297 responded to the survey. Overall, respondents to the Open Participation effort were more likely than respondents to the Address-Sampled survey to be active users of the parks system. Before demographic weighting (see more about this best practice in the paragraph below), they were also more likely to own their home, live in a single-family home, and be age 35 or older.

The survey data from both efforts were statistically weighted to adjust for under-response among certain demographic groups, a survey research best practice. The results of the open participation are compared to those of the random address sample in *Appendix D: Comparisons of Address Sample and Open Participation Survey Responses* and the detailed frequencies are provided under separate cover.

Comparisons of results by respondent characteristics and geographic area of residence are reported under separate cover and include side by side comparisons of the two outreach efforts. More information about the survey methods used can be found in *Appendix E: Survey Methodology*.

## Key Findings

### **Parks were most commonly used for simple pursuits.**

- Enjoying nature, using trails, and spending time with family were top resident activities in parks (see Table 1).
- About one-third said they relaxed, attended special events, used playgrounds or biking trails.
- Pools, dog walking and exercising were activities for about one-quarter of respondents.
- About 15% or fewer participated in water sports, individual sports, team sports, cross-country skied or roller skated/scootered.

### **Almost everyone had used regional parks, neighborhood parks, and trails.**

- Ninety percent or more of households had used regional and special use parks (e.g., Manito Park, Finch Arboretum, Camp Sekani Park, Riverfront Park), walking/running/hiking trails and neighborhood parks (see Table 3).
- A majority of households had also used playgrounds, open space and natural lands, picnic facilities and outdoor aquatic facilities.
- Few had used the parks for volunteer activities, the Corbin Art Center classes and camps, golf courses for non-golf purposes or the Therapeutic Recreation Services.

### **About one-third of resident households reported having participated in a City of Spokane recreation activity or program.**

- Conversely, about two-thirds of households had not participated in a recreation activity or program (see Table 9).

### **Residents most often identified neighborhood parks, picnic areas, city recreation/community centers, playgrounds and trails as needing improvements or upgrades.**

- Over three-quarters of respondents with an opinion cited these as being in need of at least slight improvements (see Table 5).
- More than half of respondents with an opinion felt no improvements were needed at the sports complexes or golf courses.
- For about half of the list of parks and amenities, half or more of respondents said they did not know enough about them to say whether or not they were in need of improvement. Most had an opinion about neighborhood parks, but most did not know about: Therapeutic Recreation Services, City recreation buildings, community centers, and senior centers, sports leagues and teams, wellness and enrichment programs, Corbin Art classes and camps and volunteer activities (see Table 4).



**Residents were willing to travel about 2 to 5 miles to visit most parks.**

- Six in 10 respondents would travel 2 or more miles to a neighborhood park, about 7 in 10 would travel 2 or more miles to a community park, and about 8 in 10 would travel 2 or more miles to a regional park or special use park, and three-quarters would travel 2 or more miles to use a paved recreation trail (see Table 7). Only 20% or fewer would travel 13 or more miles to these types of facilities.
- However, about half of respondents (49%) were willing to travel 13 miles or more to visit a Trailhead or Natural Lands, and nearly 9 in 10 would travel 2 or more miles.

**While some residents felt there were no barriers to their use or enjoyment of recreation facilities, programs, parks, or natural lands, some barriers or challenges were noted.**

- About 4 in 10 residents said nothing was stopping them from increasing their use of recreation facilities, programs, parks, or natural lands (see Table 10).
- However, about 4 in 10 residents noted that a lack of familiarity with the City's parks and recreation offerings kept them from using them or using them more often.
- About 2 in 10 residents reported having had an unpleasant experience in any of the City of Spokane's parks or natural areas (see Table 11). Residents listed illegal camping and illicit activity (drug use) as top unpleasant experiences (see Table 12).
- Over half of residents reported that the behavior of others in the parks and natural lands detracts from their use (see Table 16).
- About two-thirds of residents believe the City needs to do more to make parks and programs welcoming and accessible (see Table 16).
- About 3 in 10 residents felt that getting to community and senior centers was a challenge (see Table 16).

**Residents feel the primary purpose of parks and recreation facilities and programs is to connect people to nature, but also to nourish the economic and physical health of the community.**

- Nine in 10 residents believed it was essential or very important for parks to provide an opportunity to connect with nature or to encourage people to spend time outdoors or in nature (see Table 13).
- Eight in 10 felt it was essential or very important for parks and recreation facilities and programs to enhance the community's economic vitality, making Spokane attractive to live, work and do business and provide places for people to maintain and to improve their health.

**Residents value conservation, preservation, and protection of natural lands over recreational use of these resources.**

- Respondents support recreation within natural lands, but not as highly as conservation (see Table 14).
- Exercising pets was least likely to be seen as a priority for use of natural land, although half did consider this essential or very important (see Table 14).

**Even when asked about park amenities (as opposed to a specific focus on natural lands) priority was given to more natural or sustainable use.**

- A majority of respondents would support changing portions of parks to meadows or natural spaces to be more sustainable and use less resources (see Table 16).
- In general, when asked about their priorities for development of new park amenities, natural uses (such as improving trailheads, adding unpaved trails, and acquiring additional natural lands) were prioritized over developed active recreation, such as indoor pools or sports facilities.
- However, the top priority was adding restrooms (see Table 16); and as noted below, a lack of restrooms was also considered a problem by about 7 in 10 residents (see Table 15).
- On the list of potential new park amenities, off-leash dog parks/off-leash dog areas, an indoor pool, fishing areas, skate parks, and disc golf courses comprised the ‘second tier’ improvements desired.
- Development of tracks, sports fields and associated appurtenances were the lowest resident priorities for development.

**Although most residents were satisfied with the level of maintenance of developed parks and natural lands, many preferred to see an increase in the frequency of regular park maintenance.**

- Nearly 7 in 10 residents were satisfied with the level of maintenance in parks and natural lands (see Table 15).
- However, 6 in 10 felt that the City should improve the frequency of cleaning, garbage removal, mowing, and general upkeep (see Table 15). Lack of restrooms at parks, sports fields and natural lands was considered a problem by about 7 in 10 residents. It may be that residents consider the overall condition of parks and natural lands as satisfactory, but would nevertheless like to see more specific cleanup and amenities.

**In the next 5 years, residents preferred the City seek to build new parks on city owned land, renovate existing parks & maintain existing parks before acquiring land or expanding programming.**

- Improving neighborhood access to a park by building new parks on land the City already owns was considered essential or very important by 71% of residents (see Table 17).
- Improving daily maintenance/management of existing parks and renovating/enhancing existing parks and natural areas were as viewed as important or essential by about two-thirds of residents.
- About 6 in 10 residents felt the City should seek additional funding to create and maintain its existing offerings
- About half considered it essential or very important to acquire new property to for parks and natural areas, while only 4 in 10 felt it was essential or very important to expand recreation programs and community facility offerings.



**Some differences in survey results were observed by the Council District in which residents lived.**Residents of District 1 were more likely than residents of District 2 or 3 to:

- Find fees for park programs or activities were too high (62%) and consider the cost of equipment for desired sports/activities a barrier to using parks more (14%).
- Say that feelings of safety prevented them from using parks or natural areas more often (20%).
- Think the City should do more to make parks serve all ages (79%).
- Feel that lack of accessory improvements (such as trash bins, benches, signs, lighting etc.) was a problem (90%).
- Report upgrades or improvements were needed to sports complexes (35%) or outdoor sports fields (47%).
- Support the City seeking funding to:
  - Renovate/enhance existing parks and natural elements (81%).
  - Improve daily maintenance and management of existing parks (81%).
  - Expand recreation program and community facilities offerings (61%).
- Desire these additions/improvements:
  - Restrooms (94%)
  - Dog parks/off-leash dog areas (76%)
  - Designated fishing areas (74%)
  - Mountain bike park/pump track (62%)
  - Disc-golf courses (60%)
  - Skate parks (57%)
  - Wellness and Enrichment programs (music, yoga, etc.) (54%)
  - Outdoor running tracks (49%).

Residents of District 2 compared to residents of Districts 1 and 3 were more likely to:

- Relax/contemplate/meditate **in the City of Spokane's parks and/or natural areas** (46%).
- Feel that therapeutic recreation services need improvement or upgrades (36%).

Residents of District 3 compared to residents of Districts 1 and 2 were more likely to:

- Be satisfied with the level of maintenance in parks (80%).
- Think the City should acquire additional natural lands (78%) and improve trailheads on natural lands (89%).
- Support the City adding paved walking paths (72%) and unpaved trails for hiking (82%).
- Use cross country ski/snowshoe trails (12%).
- Consider the hours/timing of programs inconvenient (17%).

## Appendix A: Full Set of Responses to the Address Sample Survey

The full set of responses for each question on the random address survey are displayed in the tables in this appendix. Each table displays the proportion of respondents and number of respondents who gave each response. Verbatim responses to fully open-ended questions are provided under separate cover.

**Table 1: Question 1**

What do you or anyone in your household like to do in City of Spokane's parks and/or natural areas? (Select the top 5)	Percent
Enjoy nature and/or wildlife	73%
Use walking and hiking trails	69%
Spend time with family and/or friends	52%
Relax/contemplate/meditate	33%
Attend special events (like Hoopfest, Pig out in the Park, Farmers Markets)	30%
Use playgrounds	28%
Use biking trails	27%
Exercise	26%
Walk my dog/Use off leash dog areas	24%
Use splash pads/pools	24%
Kayak/Raft/Canoe/Stand Up Paddleboard	16%
Picnic/BBQ	15%
Take the Numerica SkyRide, ride the carousel, use the Numerica skate ribbon	11%
Fish	10%
Use cross country ski/snowshoe trails	9%
Large group gatherings/celebrations	8%
Team sports	6%
Individual sports	3%
Participate in an outdoor education/environmental program	3%
Roller skate or scooter	2%
I don't use them	1%
Other	2%



**Table 2: Question 2 (Other)**

<b>If Other: please describe?</b>
Enjoy a few beers in nature.
Enjoy floral and botanical displays and plants
golf
I have not visited one in a while. Usually just walk around in parks and through them
Outdoor Parcourse at Mission Park.
specifically enjoy the plantings and special gardens
Throw frisbee with pet dog
Why ask what I do if I can't pick all of my activities. That leaves a lot of room for error. You shouldn't get any funding because you blew \$ on a ugly arena we didn't and didn't ask for.

**Table 3: Question 3**

<b>Below is a list of some recreational offerings/places provided by the City of Spokane Parks and Recreation Department. Please indicate whether you or anyone in your household have ever used these?</b>	<b>Have used</b>	<b>Have not used</b>	<b>Total</b>
Regional and special use parks (e.g., Manito Park, Finch Arboretum, Camp Sekani Park, Riverfront Park)	97%	3%	100%
Walking/running/hiking trails	93%	7%	100%
Neighborhood parks (e.g., Rochester, Poly Judd, Ben Burr, Liberty, Comstock, Audubon Park)	88%	12%	100%
Playgrounds	72%	28%	100%
Open space and natural lands (. e.g., Palisades Park, Drumheller Springs, High Drive Park)	71%	29%	100%
Picnic facilities	65%	35%	100%
Outdoor aquatic facilities (including pools and splash pads)	59%	41%	100%
Sports complexes (e.g., Dwight Merkel, Southeast Sports Complex, Franklin Park)	45%	55%	100%
Boat/kayak/canoe launch pads	41%	59%	100%
Mountain bike trails	39%	61%	100%
Outdoor sports courts (e.g., tennis, handball, pickleball, basketball, etc.)	38%	62%	100%
City recreation buildings, community centers, and senior centers	37%	63%	100%
Outdoor sports fields (e.g., soccer, football, softball, baseball, etc.)	36%	64%	100%
Golf courses	31%	69%	100%
Sports leagues and teams	25%	75%	100%
Wellness and enrichment programs (music, yoga, other)	21%	79%	100%
Volunteer activities	17%	83%	100%
Corbin Art Center classes and camps	16%	84%	100%
Golf courses for non-golf purposes	13%	87%	100%
Therapeutic Recreation Services	5%	95%	100%



**Table 4: Question 4**

How much, if at all, do you think any of the following needs upgrading or improvement?	Great need for improvement	Moderate need for improvement	Sum of great and moderate need	Slight need for improvement	No need for improvement	Don't know	Total
My neighborhood park (e.g., Rochester, Polly Judd, Ben Burr, Liberty, Comstock, Audubon Park)	10%	23%	33%	34%	18%	15%	100%
Playgrounds	4%	19%	23%	23%	21%	33%	100%
Picnic facilities	7%	13%	21%	35%	16%	27%	100%
Paved Trails (Cycling/Walking/running/hiking)	5%	16%	21%	38%	26%	14%	100%
Regional and special use parks (e.g., Finch Arboretum, Camp Sekani, Riverfront Park)	4%	14%	19%	29%	38%	14%	100%
Open space and natural lands (e.g., Palisades, High Drive Park.)	7%	9%	17%	27%	28%	29%	100%
Unpaved Trails (Mountain bike, trail walking)	6%	12%	17%	31%	23%	29%	100%
Outdoor sports courts (e.g. tennis, handball, pickleball, basketball, etc.)	6%	10%	16%	14%	18%	52%	100%
Outdoor aquatic facilities (including pools and splash pads)	5%	11%	16%	20%	23%	41%	100%
Outdoor sports fields (e.g., soccer, football, softball, baseball, etc.)	4%	7%	11%	15%	19%	55%	100%
City recreation buildings, community centers, and senior centers	2%	9%	11%	11%	9%	69%	100%
Wellness and enrichment programs (music, yoga, other)	4%	5%	9%	7%	10%	74%	100%
Boat, Canoe & Kayak launch pads	2%	7%	9%	17%	15%	59%	100%

How much, if at all, do you think any of the following needs upgrading or improvement?	Great need for improvement	Moderate need for improvement	Sum of great and moderate need	Slight need for improvement	No need for improvement	Don't know	Total
Sports complexes (e.g., Dwight Merkel and Franklin Park)	3%	5%	8%	12%	25%	54%	100%
Volunteer activities	1%	7%	8%	8%	8%	76%	100%
Golf courses	1%	5%	6%	10%	22%	62%	100%
Sports leagues and teams	1%	3%	4%	11%	14%	71%	100%
Corbin Art classes and camps	0%	2%	3%	11%	12%	75%	100%
Therapeutic Recreation Services	1%	2%	3%	7%	6%	84%	100%



**Table 5: Question 4 (Excluding Don't Know)**

How much, if at all, do you think any of the following needs upgrading or improvement?	Great need for improvement	Moderate need for improvement	Sum of great and moderate need	Slight need for improvement	No need for improvement	Total
My neighborhood park (e.g., Rochester, Polly Judd, Ben Burr, Liberty, Comstock, Audubon Park)	12%	27%	39%	40%	22%	100%
Wellness and enrichment programs (music, yoga, other)	17%	19%	36%	26%	38%	100%
City recreation buildings, community centers, and senior centers	6%	28%	35%	36%	29%	100%
Playgrounds	6%	28%	34%	35%	31%	100%
Volunteer activities	5%	29%	34%	33%	33%	100%
Outdoor sports courts (e.g. tennis, handball, pickleball, basketball, etc.)	12%	21%	32%	30%	38%	100%
Picnic facilities	10%	19%	29%	49%	22%	100%
Outdoor aquatic facilities (including pools and splash pads)	8%	19%	27%	34%	38%	100%
Paved Trails (Cycling/Walking/running/hiking)	6%	18%	25%	45%	31%	100%
Outdoor sports fields (e.g., soccer, football, softball, baseball, etc.)	10%	15%	24%	34%	42%	100%
Unpaved Trails (Mountain bike, trail walking)	8%	17%	24%	44%	32%	100%
Open space and natural lands (e.g., Palisades, High Drive Park.)	10%	13%	23%	38%	39%	100%
Regional and special use parks (e.g., Finch Arboretum, Camp Sekani, Riverfront Park)	5%	17%	22%	34%	44%	100%
Boat, Canoe & Kayak launch pads	5%	16%	21%	42%	37%	100%

How much, if at all, do you think any of the following needs upgrading or improvement?	Great need for improvement	Moderate need for improvement	Sum of great and moderate need	Slight need for improvement	No need for improvement	Total
Sports complexes (e.g., Dwight Merkel and Franklin Park)	6%	12%	18%	27%	55%	100%
Therapeutic Recreation Services	6%	12%	18%	43%	39%	100%
Golf courses	3%	12%	16%	26%	58%	100%
Sports leagues and teams	4%	11%	15%	38%	47%	100%
Corbin Art classes and camps	2%	9%	10%	43%	47%	100%



**Table 6: Question 5**

If there are specific parks or programs you feel are in need of improvement, please list them here (Categorization of open-ended question – full verbatim responses are available under separate cover)	Percent
Specific park named*	50%
Other comment	23%
Specific sport (Pickle ball, baseball, aquatics, etc.)**	20%
Manito	13%
Safety	11%
Playgrounds	7%
Bathrooms	6%

\* Specific parks most frequently named were Manito Park and Franklin Park. The number of times specific parks were named were: Manito Park, 9; Franklin Park, 4; Camp Sekani, 3; Comstock Park, 3; Riverside Park, 3; Cannon Park, 3; Sky Prairie Park, 3; Coeur d'Alene Park, 3; Ben Burr trail, 3; Riverfront Park, 2; Underhill Park, 2; Centennial Trail, 2; Finch Arboretum, 2; Lincoln Park, 2; Fish Lake Trail, 2; Shadle Park, 2; Cannon Hill, 2; Trolley Trail, 2; Friendship Park, 2; Wayakin Park, 2; Grant Park, 2; Liberty Park, 2; CDA Park, 1; Hays Park, 1; Southside Sports Complex, 1; Whittier Park, 1; Polly Jud Park, 1; Cliff Park, 1; Shadow Park, 1; Audobon Park, 1; Grandview Park, 1; Kendall Park, 1; High Bridge Disc Golf, 1; Clark Park, 1; Champion Park, 1; Brownes Addition, 1; Corbin Park, 1; Byrne Park, 1; Drumheller Springs, 1; Mission Park, 1; Thornton Murphy, 1; Pacific Park, 1; Emerson Park, 1; Peace Park, 1; Westwood Park, 1; People's Park, 1; Perry trails, 1; High Drive Bluff Trail, 1; High Bridge Park, 1; High Drive trails, 1; Hill & Dale Rotary Park, 1.

\*\* Specific activities named included pickleball, pools, splash pads, organized activities, golf courses, exercise stations, picnicking

**Table 7: Question 6**

<b>What is the furthest you and your household will travel to get to each of the following types of natural areas or outdoor recreation in the City of Spokane? (Please select the furthest for each).</b>	<b>Wouldn't use them at all</b>	<b>Less than a ¼ mile</b>	<b>¼ to ½ mile</b>	<b>½ mile to 1 mile</b>	<b>2 to 5 miles</b>	<b>6 to 12 miles</b>	<b>13+ miles</b>	<b>Total</b>
Trailheads or Natural Lands (natural surface trails)	7%	1%	1%	3%	15%	23%	49%	100%
Neighborhood Park (with amenities like a playground, picnic tables, paths)	1%	5%	9%	24%	36%	17%	7%	100%
Community Park (with amenities like a splashpad, sport courts, or a large playground)	8%	2%	4%	17%	38%	23%	8%	100%
Regional Park or Special Use Park (with amenities like an aquatics center or sports complex)	11%	2%	1%	7%	32%	29%	19%	100%
Paved Recreation Trail (urban trail)	6%	4%	3%	11%	32%	24%	21%	100%

**Table 8: Question 7**

<b>{IF YOU SELECTED 'WOULDN'T USE' IN Q6} Why wouldn't you use these parks or natural areas at all? (Choose all that apply)</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Not interested in using	56%
I don't have a car/too hard to get there without a car	10%
I use transit and there are no good bus routes to get there	7%
I can't get there by bike	1%
I can't get there by foot	7%
Other	39%



**Table 9: Question 8**

Have you or any member of your household participated in any of the City of Spokane's recreation activities or programs? Examples might include swim lessons, outdoor camps, art classes, organized sports leagues, or wellness activities like yoga or martial arts.	Yes	No	Total
Have you or any member of your household participated in any of the City of Spokane's recreation activities or programs?	36%	64%	100%

**Table 10: Question 9**

What prevents you or others in your household from using Spokane recreation facilities, programs, parks, or natural lands more often? (Select the top 3)	Percent
Nothing prevents us from using more often	38%
Do not know where to go/unfamiliar with offerings	36%
We do not have the time	19%
The hours/timing are not convenient	14%
Program fees are too expensive	11%
I do not feel safe in these locations	11%
Hard to find a place to park if I drive	9%
They are poorly maintained or damaged	8%
Locations or facilities are too crowded	8%
Equipment for desired sports/activities is too costly	7%
Not easy to get there by bus, bike or walking	6%
I/we are not interested	6%
Facilities lack the right equipment/amenities	5%
Don't offer the programs I/we want	4%
Not accessible for people with disabilities	3%
Poor customer service by staff	0%
Other	9%

**Table 11: Question 10**

	Yes	No	Total
In the past year, did you have any unpleasant experiences in any of the City of Spokane's parks or natural areas?	22%	78%	100%

**Table 12: Question 11**

Please describe the unpleasant experience: (Categorization of open-ended question – full verbatim responses are available under separate cover)	Percent
Homeless people, illegal camping	50%
Drug use	34%
Trash/garbage and vandalism	16%
Crime/harassment	14%
Dog issues	9%
Other comment	6%
Bathrooms/porta potties	4%
Maintenance issues/rundown/updates needed	4%
Accessibility, things closed	4%
Noise, crowds	3%
Parking	2%
Rude staff, poorly staffed	2%
Driving and biking safety concerns	1%



**Table 13: Question 12**

<b>Communities offer parks and recreation facilities and programs for various reasons. Please rate how important each of these purposes is to you.</b>	<b>Essential</b>	<b>Very important</b>	<b>Sum of essential and very important</b>	<b>Somewhat important</b>	<b>Not at all important</b>	<b>Total</b>
Provide opportunity to connect with nature	58%	30%	88%	11%	1%	100%
Provide places for people to maintain and improve their health	44%	43%	87%	12%	1%	100%
Encourage people to spend time outdoors/in nature	50%	36%	86%	13%	1%	100%
Provide greater mobility with trails and paths for exercise and non-motorized transportation	41%	42%	83%	16%	1%	100%
Provide recreation opportunities and programs to people and communities in historically under-resourced areas.	36%	43%	79%	18%	3%	100%
Enhance the community's economic vitality, making Spokane attractive to live, work and do business	45%	33%	78%	17%	5%	100%
Provide social opportunities, places to gather and community events	31%	46%	76%	22%	2%	100%
Promote appreciation and preservation of the cultural and natural heritage of the community	33%	40%	73%	24%	3%	100%
Provide wellness, recreation, and social activities and programs	34%	36%	71%	25%	4%	100%
Attract visitors and promote tourism through special events and tournaments	31%	29%	60%	29%	11%	100%
Provide sports leagues and sport skill development	17%	38%	56%	33%	11%	100%

**Table 14: Question 13**

<b>Natural lands (open spaces) within the City of Spokane can serve a variety of purposes. Please rate how important each of these purposes is to you.</b>	<b>Essential</b>	<b>Very important</b>	<b>Sum of essential and very important</b>	<b>Somewhat important</b>	<b>Not at all important</b>	<b>Total</b>
Conserve lands around rivers/streams/creeks and floodplains	69%	27%	96%	4%	0%	100%
Conserve ponds, lakes, and wetlands	71%	25%	96%	4%	0%	100%
Protect wildlife habitat	69%	24%	93%	7%	0%	100%
Conserve native plants, sensitive landscapes and forests	69%	25%	93%	6%	0%	100%
Preserve areas with beautiful or unique natural features	56%	37%	93%	7%	0%	100%
Manage development at the urban boundaries for fire resiliency	55%	34%	89%	9%	1%	100%
Preserve scenic views and cultural landscapes	49%	40%	89%	10%	1%	100%
Provide a natural setting for outdoor activities/exploration	39%	48%	87%	12%	0%	100%
Provide recreation trails and greenways	38%	46%	83%	16%	1%	100%
Provide close by/easy to get to places to escape urban life	39%	44%	83%	15%	1%	100%
Provide places to exercise pets	21%	30%	51%	39%	10%	100%



**Table 15: Question 14**

<b>To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about parks, recreation, and natural lands provided by the City?</b>	<b>Strongly agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Sum of strongly agree and agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly disagree</b>	<b>No opinion/Don't know</b>	<b>Total</b>
I am satisfied with the level of maintenance of the developed parks.	8%	61%	69%	21%	2%	8%	100%
I would support physically changing portions of parks to meadows or natural space be more sustainable and use less resources (water, fossil fuels, etc.).	34%	33%	67%	17%	5%	11%	100%
I am satisfied with the level of maintenance of the natural lands.	8%	58%	66%	16%	2%	16%	100%
Lack of restrooms at parks, sports fields, and natural lands is a problem	18%	47%	65%	20%	2%	14%	100%
Lack of accessory improvements such as trash bins, benches, signs, lighting, etc. at parks, sports fields, and trailheads is a problem	13%	49%	62%	23%	1%	14%	100%
The City should improve the frequency of cleaning, garbage removal, mowing, and general upkeep.	19%	40%	59%	22%	1%	18%	100%
There is a general lack of public awareness of park rules	15%	42%	57%	19%	2%	22%	100%
Parks are equitably distributed within the City.	3%	50%	54%	18%	6%	22%	100%
The City needs to do more to make parks and programs welcoming and accessible	12%	37%	50%	25%	2%	24%	100%
The City needs to do more to make parks and programs serve all abilities.	13%	35%	48%	18%	2%	32%	100%
I am satisfied with the recreation programs and activities offered by the City.	7%	40%	47%	11%	1%	41%	100%
The City needs to do more to make parks and programs serve all ages.	12%	34%	46%	25%	2%	27%	100%

To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about parks, recreation, and natural lands provided by the City?	Strongly agree	Agree	Sum of strongly agree and agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No opinion/Don't know	Total
Overcrowding and damage to park resources and trails is a problem	9%	37%	45%	31%	2%	22%	100%
Behavior of others in the parks and natural lands detracts from my use	16%	28%	44%	38%	5%	13%	100%
Getting to parks, trails, and natural lands by bicycling or walking is a challenge	5%	22%	27%	41%	8%	24%	100%
User fees for park programs and activities are too high.	9%	18%	26%	33%	5%	35%	100%
Getting to parks, trails, and natural lands using public transportation (buses) is a challenge	7%	19%	26%	15%	2%	57%	100%
It is too far from my home to get to parks and natural lands	2%	10%	12%	52%	28%	8%	100%
Getting to community and senior centers is a challenge	4%	6%	10%	24%	2%	64%	100%



**Table 16: Question 14 (Excluding No Opinion/Don't Know)**

To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about parks, recreation, and natural lands provided by the City?	Strongly agree	Agree	Sum of strongly agree and agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Total
I am satisfied with the recreation programs and activities offered by the City.	12%	68%	80%	19%	1%	100%
I am satisfied with the level of maintenance of the natural lands.	10%	69%	79%	20%	2%	100%
I would support physically changing portions of parks to meadows or natural space be more sustainable and use less resources (water, fossil fuels, etc.).	39%	37%	76%	19%	6%	100%
I am satisfied with the level of maintenance of the developed parks.	8%	67%	75%	23%	2%	100%
Lack of restrooms at parks, sports fields, and natural lands is a problem	21%	54%	75%	23%	2%	100%
There is a general lack of public awareness of park rules	19%	54%	73%	25%	2%	100%
Lack of accessory improvements such as trash bins, benches, signs, lighting, etc. at parks, sports fields, and trailheads is a problem	16%	57%	72%	27%	1%	100%
The City should improve the frequency of cleaning, garbage removal, mowing, and general upkeep.	23%	48%	72%	27%	1%	100%
The City needs to do more to make parks and programs serve all abilities.	20%	52%	71%	26%	3%	100%
Parks are equitably distributed within the City.	4%	65%	69%	23%	8%	100%
The City needs to do more to make parks and programs welcoming and accessible	16%	49%	65%	33%	3%	100%
The City needs to do more to make parks and programs serve all ages.	16%	46%	63%	34%	3%	100%
Getting to parks, trails, and natural lands using public transportation (buses) is a challenge	17%	43%	60%	35%	5%	100%

To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about parks, recreation, and natural lands provided by the City?	Strongly agree	Agree	Sum of strongly agree and agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Total
Overcrowding and damage to park resources and trails is a problem	11%	47%	58%	40%	2%	100%
Behavior of others in the parks and natural lands detracts from my use	19%	32%	51%	44%	5%	100%
User fees for park programs and activities are too high.	13%	27%	41%	52%	8%	100%
Getting to parks, trails, and natural lands by bicycling or walking is a challenge	7%	29%	36%	54%	10%	100%
Getting to community and senior centers is a challenge	11%	16%	27%	67%	6%	100%
It is too far from my home to get to parks and natural lands	2%	11%	13%	57%	31%	100%



**Table 17: Question 15**

<b>How important, if at all, do you think it is for the City to seek funding to do the following in the next 5 years?</b>	<b>Essential</b>	<b>Very important</b>	<b>Sum of essential and very important</b>	<b>Somewhat important</b>	<b>Not at all important</b>	<b>Total</b>
Build new parks on land the city already owns to improve neighborhood access to a park	27%	44%	71%	23%	6%	100%
Renovate/enhance existing parks and natural areas	22%	44%	66%	30%	4%	100%
Improve daily maintenance and management of existing parks	29%	38%	66%	30%	3%	100%
Seek additional funding to create and maintain existing offerings	28%	35%	63%	25%	12%	100%
Expand the park system by acquiring new property for parks and natural lands	23%	29%	52%	31%	17%	100%
Expand recreation program and community facilities offerings	12%	26%	39%	48%	13%	100%

**Table 18: Question 16**

In the next few years, the City will consider developing some new park amenities. Which of the following would you prefer they focus on first?	Strongly prefer	Somewhat prefer	Sum of strongly and somewhat prefer	Do not prefer	Don't know	Total
Add restrooms	49%	36%	85%	5%	9%	100%
Add unpaved trails for hiking	42%	41%	83%	9%	8%	100%
Improve trailheads on natural lands	46%	36%	82%	6%	12%	100%
Acquire additional natural lands	50%	25%	76%	13%	11%	100%
Add paved walking paths	26%	41%	67%	27%	6%	100%
Add dog parks / Off-leash dog areas	25%	38%	63%	28%	9%	100%
Develop an indoor pool	29%	31%	60%	26%	14%	100%
Add designated fishing areas	26%	26%	52%	29%	19%	100%
Add a mountain bike park/pump track	15%	32%	47%	35%	18%	100%
Add skate parks	12%	33%	45%	40%	15%	100%
Add disc-golf courses	12%	33%	45%	34%	21%	100%
Add outdoor running tracks	7%	28%	36%	45%	19%	100%
Add outdoor pickleball courts	10%	26%	36%	38%	26%	100%
Develop artificial turf fields for sports	6%	22%	29%	49%	22%	100%
Develop additional sports fields	5%	22%	27%	49%	24%	100%
Add dedicated lacrosse fields	2%	13%	14%	58%	27%	100%



**Table 19: Question 16 (Excluding Don't Know)**

In the next few years, the City will consider developing some new park amenities. Which of the following would you prefer they focus on first?	Strongly prefer	Somewhat prefer	Sum of strongly and somewhat prefer	Do not prefer	Total
Add restrooms	54%	40%	94%	6%	100%
Improve trailheads on natural lands	52%	41%	93%	7%	100%
Add unpaved trails for hiking	45%	45%	90%	10%	100%
Acquire additional natural lands	57%	28%	85%	15%	100%
Add paved walking paths	28%	43%	71%	29%	100%
Develop an indoor pool	33%	36%	69%	31%	100%
Add dog parks / Off-leash dog areas	27%	42%	69%	31%	100%
Add designated fishing areas	32%	33%	64%	36%	100%
Add a mountain bike park/pump track	18%	39%	57%	43%	100%
Add disc-golf courses	15%	41%	57%	43%	100%
Add skate parks	14%	39%	53%	47%	100%
Add outdoor pickleball courts	14%	35%	48%	52%	100%
Add outdoor running tracks	9%	35%	44%	56%	100%
Develop artificial turf fields for sports	8%	29%	37%	63%	100%
Develop additional sports fields	6%	29%	35%	65%	100%
Add dedicated lacrosse fields	2%	18%	20%	80%	100%

**Table 20: Question 17 – Other focuses**

<b>(Other) In the next few years, the City will consider developing some new park amenities. Which of the following would you prefer they focus on first?</b>	<b>Percent of respondents who mentioned an other focus</b>
Address safety and homeless issue	17%
nothing	15%
Improve current amenities	13%
Protect/conserve natural areas and water	12%
Other	10%
Develop an indoor pool	9%
Add dog parks / Off-leash dog areas	7%
Add communication/information for park users	6%
Add paved walking paths	5%
Add art/educational/cultural/musical amenities	5%
Accessibility for people with various needs	4%
Develop additional sports fields	3%
Acquire additional natural lands	3%
Add unpaved trails for hiking	3%
Add restrooms	2%
Add ice rink	2%
Add parking	2%
Add playgrounds	2%
Add bike path	2%
Add dedicated lacrosse fields	1%
Develop artificial turf fields for sports	1%
Add a mountain bike park/pump track	1%
Add skate parks	1%
Add outdoor pickleball courts	1%



(Other) In the next few years, the City will consider developing some new park amenities. Which of the following would you prefer they focus on first?	Percent of respondents who mentioned an other focus
Improve trailheads on natural lands	1%
Add/improve golf course	1%
Add tennis courts/lights to courts	1%
Add splash pad	1%
Add drinking water source	1%
Basketball/volleyball/racquetball/bocce ball	1%
Add indoor sports facility/rec center	1%
Add outdoor running tracks	0%
Add disc-golf courses	0%
Add designated fishing areas	0%
Access to river and river activities	0%

**Table 21: Question 18**

<b>What do you think is important for the City's 10-year plan for parks and natural lands to address? (Categorization of open-ended question – full verbatim responses are available under separate cover)</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Preservation, keep natural, low impact	28%
Maintenance, clean up, manage trash	27%
Expand	21%
Address homeless camping, drug use, crime	14%
Accessibility for all	10%
Bathrooms	8%
Safety/lighting/crime reduction	7%
Budget	5%
Communication/information/signage/maps	3%
Playgrounds/amenities for children	3%
Parking	1%
Aesthetics/beauty	1%

**Table 22: Question 20**

	<b>Less than 1 year</b>	<b>1 to 4 years</b>	<b>5 to 9 years</b>	<b>10 to 14 years</b>	<b>15 to 19 years</b>	<b>More than 20 years</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>How long have you lived in Spokane?</b>	6%	13%	14%	0%	7%	60%	100%

**Table 23: Question 21**

	<b>I rent</b>	<b>I own</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Do you rent or own your home?</b>	37%	62%	1%	100%



Table 24: Question 22

	Yes	No	Total
Does your home or apartment complex have yard or outdoor spaces for play/relaxation?	86%	14%	100%

Table 25: Question 23

	Single-Family Detached Home	Attached house (duplex, triplex, townhome)	Apartment	Mobile/manufactured home	Group quarters (college dorms, student housing, group homes, nursing home, short-term & transitional housing, etc.)	I am currently unhoused	Total
Do you live in a single-family detached home, or in another type of home, like an apartment, townhome, condo or something else?	72%	11%	16%	0%	0%	0%	100%

**Table 26: Question 24**

Do any of the following (including yourself) live in your household?	Yes	No	Total
Children (ages 12 and under)	30%	70%	100%
Teenagers (ages 13 to 19)	15%	85%	100%
Adults (ages 20 to 54)	73%	27%	100%
Adults (ages 55 or older)	47%	53%	100%
Dogs	45%	55%	100%

**Table 27: Question 25**

	Less than \$25,000	\$25,000 to \$49,999	\$50,000 to \$74,999	\$75,000 to \$99,999	\$100,000 to \$124,999	Over \$125,000	Total
Please describe your annual household income:	11%	26%	21%	17%	10%	14%	100%

**Table 28: Question 26**

	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75-84	85+	Total
Which category contains your age?	2%	30%	18%	13%	14%	17%	5%	1%	100%

**Table 29: Question 27**

	Female	Male	Non- binary	Transgend er	I identify in another way	Prefer to self- describe	Prefer not to say	Total
Which gender do you identify as?	49%	47%	1%	0%	0%	0%	3%	100%

**Table 30: Question 28 (Other gender identity)**

No responses



**Table 31: Question 29**

Which race or ethnicity do you most identify with? Please check all that apply.	Percent
American Indian and Alaska Native	1%
Asian	1%
Black or African American	1%
Hispanic or Latino/a/x	4%
Middle Eastern or North African	0%
Multiracial or Multiethnic	1%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	1%
White	92%
Another race or ethnicity,	3%

**Table 32: Question 30 (Other race or ethnicity)**

Please describe (another race or ethnicity)	Count
	328
Human	2
I belong to the human race.	1

## Appendix B: Full Set of Responses to the Open Participation Survey

The full set of responses for each question on the random address survey are displayed in the tables in this appendix. Each table displays the proportion of respondents and number of respondents who gave each response. Verbatim responses to fully open-ended questions are provided under separate cover.

**Table 33: Question 1**

What do you or anyone in your household like to do in City of Spokane's parks and/or natural areas? (Select the top 5)	Percent
Enjoy nature and/or wildlife	71%
Use walking and hiking trails	70%
Spend time with family and/or friends	44%
Use playgrounds	32%
Exercise	32%
Use biking trails	30%
Walk my dog / Use off leash dog areas	27%
Attend special events (like Hoopfest, Pig out in the Park, Farmers Markets)	27%
Use splash pads / pools	26%
Relax/contemplate/meditate	22%
Kayak/Raft/Canoe/Stand Up Paddleboard	20%
Team sports	13%
Picnic / BBQ	11%
Use cross country ski/snowshoe trails	10%
Large group gatherings/celebrations	8%
Individual sports	8%
Take the Numerica SkyRide, ride the carousel, use the Numerica skate ribbon	8%
Fish	6%
Participate in an outdoor education/environmental program	4%
Roller skate or scooter	3%



What do you or anyone in your household like to do in City of Spokane's parks and/or natural areas? (Select the top 5)	Percent
Other	3%
I don't use them	0%

**Table 34: Question 2 (Other)**

If Other: please describe?
All of the above!
Attend concerts in neighborhood park.
Camp
Camping
Car shows
community gardening
Commute by foot
Concerts in neighborhood parks
Construct Meadow Glen Park
Disc golf
Disc Golf
DISC GOLF
Disc Golf (professional events, and casual) several times a week
Disc golf courses
Disc golf.
Disc Golf.
Disc golf. We need and want more courses in the parks.
Enjoy flower gardens, particularly Manito
Exercise with the use of jogging stroller. (Could use more paved paths around perimeter of parks so small children can also follow on bike. I have 3 children under 3. Its hard to find a safe place where i can take 3 children and still get exercise for myself.
Frisbee golf and geocaching

<b>If Other: please describe?</b>
Golf
Golf
Grant Park Thursday Market
Horse trails
I bicycle to get to most places 4 seasons/year and depend upon access of sidewalks and paths to bicycle safely.
I like sitting next to the river and visiting peoples park. I like it because it is untouched nature.
I wish we had more gardens like at manito and public art.
Indoor and Outdoor Pickleball play.
Indoor aquatic facility
Items I was not allowed to remain selected, but use the following additional amenities and purposes: Fish, Biking Trails, Exercise, Individual/Team Sports, Large Group Gatherings/Celebrations, Picnic/BBQ, Use playgrounds, Spend time with family & friends, Relax/Contemplate/Meditate, Take Numerica SkyRide, Carousel, Skate Ribbon.
Kite fly Loma Vista is an open uncluttered space. People fly motorized small planes and launch little rockets. We saw in the mid 90's hot air balloons was launching early morning and at dusk for several years. They landed at the Mead airfield .
Lake/ River swimming
Long boarding not skateboarding - use paved bike trails
MORE FLOWER GARDENS NOT JUST MANITO
Music events like Mozart in the Park, Spokane Symphony concerts
My marching band practices and performs at Dutch Jakes mini park
Parks Dept Classes/Activities
Photography
Pick up litter in Upper Manito Park and along Manito Blvd
pickleball
Pickleball
Pickleball -- fastest growing sport in the nation - we need courts. We need more outdoor pools that are OPEN. More picnic tables -- seating to accommodate talking with others, facing each other, perhaps slider benches. We need more parks designed with playgrounds for SENIORS. <a href="https://www.bbc.com/worklife/article/20191028-the-cities-designing-playgrounds-for-the-elderly">https://www.bbc.com/worklife/article/20191028-the-cities-designing-playgrounds-for-the-elderly</a>
Pickleball & tennis



**If Other: please describe?**

Pickleball courts

PICKLEBALL on the limited options available

Pickleball!!

Play disc golf

play pickleball

Play pickleball

Play Pickleball

Play tennis/pickleball

Pools make Witter year-round covered

powder hounds

Really like the Greenhouse ...

Rest from work in Spokane by tent or cabin comping.

Rock climb

Rock Climb

Rock climbing

Run in organized races such as Valley Fest 5K 10K, Jingle Bell Run, Sugar Rush race with Oktoberfest, Windemere Marathon races,etc. I realize most of this is Spokane Valley.

Scenic drives and accessible trails

Shortwave radio hobbyist, get fresh air, get put of the house

Skateparks/ bikepark

Sketching and painting with a small group weekly

Socialize with folks of my age outside of our houses

southside senior center

Spokane really needs a park with a horse show arena

Swim in pools

swim in Valley

Use / play / be in the community garden at Grant Park!

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**If Other: please describe?**

Use skateparks

Walk dog (I Never!!! EVER USE OFF LEASH DOG PARKS!)

We need more Pickle Ball courts. Would request them at Comstock Park

We play Pickleball.

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**Table 35: Question 3**

<b>Below is a list of some recreational offerings/places provided by the City of Spokane Parks and Recreation Department. Please indicate whether you or anyone in your household have ever used these?</b>	<b>Have used</b>	<b>Have not used</b>	<b>Total</b>
Regional and special use parks (e.g., Manito Park, Finch Arboretum, Camp Sekani Park, Riverfront Park)	98%	2%	100%
Walking/running/hiking trails	96%	4%	100%
Neighborhood parks (e.g. Rochester, Poly Judd, Ben Burr, Liberty, Comstock, Audubon Park)	94%	6%	100%
Open space and natural lands (. e.g., Palisades Park, Drumheller Springs, High Drive Park)	83%	17%	100%
Playgrounds	72%	28%	100%
Picnic facilities	71%	29%	100%
Outdoor aquatic facilities (including pools and splash pads)	68%	32%	100%
Sports complexes (e.g., Dwight Merkel, Southeast Sports Complex, Franklin Park)	53%	47%	100%
Outdoor sports fields (e.g., soccer, football, softball, baseball, etc.)	50%	50%	100%
Boat / kayak / canoe launch pads	50%	50%	100%
Outdoor sports courts (e.g. tennis, handball, pickleball, basketball, etc.)	49%	51%	100%
Mountain bike trails	44%	56%	100%
City recreation buildings, community centers, and senior centers	38%	62%	100%
Sports leagues and teams	35%	65%	100%
Golf courses	35%	65%	100%
Volunteer activities	27%	73%	100%
Corbin Art Center classes and camps	24%	76%	100%
Wellness and enrichment programs (music, yoga, other)	22%	78%	100%
Golf courses for non-golf purposes	17%	83%	100%
Therapeutic Recreation Services	5%	95%	100%

**Table 36: Question 4**

How much, if at all, do you think any of the following needs upgrading or improvement?	Great need for improvement	Moderate need for improvement	Sum of great and moderate need	Slight need for improvement	No need for improvement	Don't know	Total
My neighborhood park (e.g., Rochester, Polly Judd, Ben Burr, Liberty, Comstock, Audubon Park)	14%	30%	44%	32%	14%	9%	100%
Paved Trails (Cycling/Walking/running/hiking)	11%	24%	34%	35%	18%	12%	100%
Open space and natural lands (e.g., Palisades, High Drive Park.)	11%	22%	33%	28%	20%	19%	100%
Playgrounds	9%	23%	32%	27%	16%	25%	100%
Unpaved Trails (Mountain bike, trail walking)	10%	19%	29%	29%	17%	24%	100%
Picnic facilities	7%	20%	27%	33%	13%	27%	100%
Regional and special use parks (e.g., Finch Arboretum, Camp Sekani, Riverfront Park)	5%	20%	25%	35%	29%	11%	100%
Outdoor sports courts (e.g. tennis, handball, pickleball, basketball, etc.)	10%	14%	24%	19%	15%	43%	100%
Outdoor aquatic facilities (including pools and splash pads)	8%	16%	24%	23%	21%	32%	100%
Boat, Canoe & Kayak launch pads	5%	12%	17%	18%	11%	53%	100%
City recreation buildings, community centers, and senior centers	4%	12%	16%	14%	10%	60%	100%
Outdoor sports fields (e.g., soccer, football, softball, baseball, etc.)	5%	10%	15%	19%	21%	46%	100%
Sports complexes (e.g., Dwight Merkel and Franklin Park)	4%	9%	13%	18%	25%	43%	100%



How much, if at all, do you think any of the following needs upgrading or improvement?	Great need for improvement	Moderate need for improvement	Sum of great and moderate need	Slight need for improvement	No need for improvement	Don't know	Total
Sports leagues and teams	4%	6%	10%	12%	13%	65%	100%
Volunteer activities	3%	7%	10%	9%	8%	73%	100%
Wellness and enrichment programs (music, yoga, other)	3%	7%	9%	9%	9%	72%	100%
Corbin Art classes and camps	2%	6%	8%	8%	10%	74%	100%
Golf courses	2%	4%	6%	12%	26%	57%	100%
Therapeutic Recreation Services	2%	3%	5%	3%	7%	85%	100%

**Table 37: Question 4 (Excluding Don't Know)**

How much, if at all, do you think any of the following needs upgrading or improvement?	Great need for improvement	Moderate need for improvement	Sum of great and moderate need	Slight need for improvement	No need for improvement	Total
My neighborhood park (e.g., Rochester, Polly Judd, Ben Burr, Liberty, Comstock, Audubon Park)	16%	33%	48%	36%	16%	100%
Playgrounds	12%	31%	43%	36%	21%	100%
Outdoor sports courts (e.g. tennis, handball, pickleball, basketball, etc.)	18%	25%	42%	32%	25%	100%
Open space and natural lands (e.g., Palisades, High Drive Park.)	14%	27%	41%	34%	24%	100%
City recreation buildings, community centers, and senior centers	11%	30%	40%	35%	25%	100%
Paved Trails (Cycling/Walking/running/hiking)	12%	27%	39%	40%	21%	100%
Unpaved Trails (Mountain bike, trail walking)	13%	25%	38%	39%	23%	100%
Picnic facilities	10%	27%	37%	45%	18%	100%
Boat, Canoe & Kayak launch pads	11%	26%	37%	38%	24%	100%
Volunteer activities	10%	26%	36%	33%	31%	100%
Outdoor aquatic facilities (including pools and splash pads)	12%	23%	35%	34%	31%	100%
Wellness and enrichment programs (music, yoga, other)	10%	24%	34%	32%	34%	100%
Therapeutic Recreation Services	12%	20%	33%	22%	45%	100%
Corbin Art classes and camps	7%	22%	29%	31%	40%	100%
Sports leagues and teams	11%	18%	29%	35%	36%	100%



How much, if at all, do you think any of the following needs upgrading or improvement?	Great need for improvement	Moderate need for improvement	Sum of great and moderate need	Slight need for improvement	No need for improvement	Total
Regional and special use parks (e.g., Finch Arboretum, Camp Sekani, Riverfront Park)	6%	23%	28%	39%	33%	100%
Outdoor sports fields (e.g., soccer, football, softball, baseball, etc.)	9%	18%	27%	35%	38%	100%
Sports complexes (e.g., Dwight Merkel and Franklin Park)	7%	16%	23%	32%	44%	100%
Golf courses	4%	10%	14%	27%	60%	100%

**Table 38: Question 5**

<b>If there are specific parks or programs you feel are in need of improvement, please list them here</b>	<b>Percent of respondents who mentioned a park or program in need of improvement</b>
Specific park named*	58%
Specific sport (Pickle ball, baseball, aquatics, etc.)**	35%
Other comment	10%
Safety	8%
Bathrooms	8%
Playgrounds	7%
Manito	7%
Dog park	7%

\* The parks named (with the number of times they were named) were: Comstock Park, 62; Franklin Park, 55; Corbin Park, 44; Grant Park, 35; Manito Park, 33; Centennial Trail, 33; Lincoln Park, 31; High Bridge Park, 31; Minnehaha Park, 6; South Hill Park, 22; Camp Sekani, 22; Audubon Park, 22; Pacific Park, 21; Palisades Park, 20; Sky Prairie Park, 19; Cannon Park, 19; Liberty Park, 18; Coeur d' Alene Park, 16; Ben Burr Park, 16; Cannon Hill Park, 15; Riverfront Park, 15; Hamblen Park, 15; Underhill Park, 13; Hays Park, 13; Finch Arboretum, 12; Friendship Park, 12; Meadowglen Park, 11; Mission Park, 11; Bluff trail system, 11; Chief Garry Park, 11; High Drive Park, 11; Drumheller Springs Natural Area, 10; Indian Trail, 10; Clark Park, 9; People's Park, 9; Shadle Park, 9; Thornton Murphy Park, 9; Loma Vista Park, 9; Riverside Park, 8; Dwight Merkle Park, 8; Holmberg Park, 7; High Drive trails, 6; Fish Lake trail, 6; Coeur d'Alene Park, 6; Emerson Park, 5; Whittier Park, 5; Webster Park, 5; Ben Burr Trail, 5; Hillyard Park, 5; Edwidge Woldson Park, 4; West Central Park, 4; CDA Park, 4; Linwood Park, 4; Boulder Beach, 4; Logan Peace Park, 4; Trolley trail, 4; Meenach Bridge, 4; Bear Lake Park, 4; Bowl & Pitcher, 3; West Gate Park, 3; Cliff Park, 3; Murphy Park, 3; Hill & Dale Rotary Park, 3; Kehoe Park, 3; Downriver Park, 3; Byrne Park, 3; Skyline Park, 3; Dutch Jake's Park, 3; Bowl & Pitcher Park, 3; Polly Jud Park, 3; Ben Burr trails, 3; Wildhorse Park, 3; Grandview Park, 3; Glass Park, 3; Jim Hill Park, 3; Camelot Park, 2; Drumheller Park, 2; Fairview Park, 2; Harmony Park, 2; Moore-Turner Heritage Gardens, 2; Sky View Park, 2; Fish Lake Park, 2; Olmstead Brothers Park, 2; Wendall Grant Park, 2; South Complex, 2; Finch Park, 2; Bluff Trails, 2; Fish Lake, 2; Witter Park Pool, 2; Hangman Park, 2; Hazel's Creek, 2; Half Moon Park, 1; Fishlake Trailhead, 1; West Cental Park, 1; Dishman Micah trail, 1; Shalde Park, 1; High Bridget Park, 1; Dishman Hill Park, 1; High Drive Bluff Park, 1; Whittter Park, 1; Dishman Park, 1; Community gardens, 1; Don Kardon bridge, 1; Bluffs trail, 1; Downriver disc golf, 1; Stone Street Park, 1; Downriver golf course, 1; Valleyford Park, 1; Hillyard Pool, 1; Western parks, 1; Cannon Pool, 1; Wyakin Park, 1; Indian Canyon Park, 1; Rimrock Park, 1; Downtown parks, 1; Rockwood Vista Reservoir Field Park, 1; Carl Maxey Center, 1; Bedford Trail, 1; Drumheller Springs, 1; South Gorge Trail, 1; Kendall Yards, 1; Southhill Park, 1; Latah Creek Valley, 1; Hamblen Area, 1; Beacon Hill, 1; Hamblin Park, 1; Duncan Gardens, 1; Hangman Creek Natural Area, 1; Linconl Park, 1; Harmon Park, 1; Cenntennial Trail, 1; Whittier Pool, 1; Ben Burr Parks, 1; Hay's Park, 1; Loma Visa Park, 1; Andrew Ripens Field, 1; Loma Vista, 1; Polly Judd Park, 1; Edge Cliff Park, 1; Five Mile Park, 1; Centennial Trial, 1; Rochester Heights Park,



1; Martin Luther King Park, 1; Frankling Park, 1; Meacham Bridge, 1; Shields Park, 1; Bear Lake, 1; Corbin Art Cemtr, 1; Emmet Park, 1; Corbin rails, 1; Merkel Park, 1; South Hill Dog Park, 1; Millwood Park, 1; Southeast Sports Complex, 1; Minnehah Park, 1; Southside Senior Center, 1; Evergreen East, 1; Susie trail, 1; Minnehana Park, 1; Tiger Trail, 1; Mission Hill Park, 1; Underbridge Park, 1; Chief Gary Park, 1; Upriver Park, 1; Finch Arboretum, 1; Vinegar Flats Park, 1; Moran Prairie, 1; Dishman Hills, 1; Mt. Spokane trails, 1; West Central Community Center, 1; BCC, 1; Dishman Hills Area, 1; Nevada Park, 1; Hatch Drive Park, 1; North Indian Trail Park, 1; Whittier Pools, 1; Cliff Drive Overlook, 1; Dishman Hills Park, 1; Biking trails, 1; Woldson Park, 1; Bedford Park, 1; Campion Park, 1; Pine River Park, 1.

\*\*The activities named (with the number of times they were named) were: aquatics, 121; pickleball, 58; biking, 31; tennis, 28; disc golf, 21; splash pad, 19; boating/kayaking, 13; mountain biking, 13; volleyball, 9; basketball, 8; golf course, 7; hiking, 7; trails, 7; dog park, 6; walking, 6; playground, 6; sports leagues, 5; splash pads, 5; golf courses, 5; boating, 4; walking trails, 4; yoga, 4; soccer, 3; community center, 3; cross-country skiing, 3; softball, 3; exercise, 3; flag football, 3; ball fields, 2; Tai Chi, 2; trail running, 2; ice rink, 2; sports fields, 2; skatepark, 2; running, 2; baseball, 2; pool, 2; playgrounds, 2; youth sports fields, 2; BMX, 1; community sports, 1; summer camps, 1; adult recreation, 1; children's programs, 1; natural history, 1; wildlife parks, 1; natural areas, 1; recreation centers, 1; wellness, 1; pump park, 1; longboard, 1; summer camp, 1; kayaking, 1; youth sports, 1; water aerobics, 1; adults sports leagues, 1; youth, 1; river recreation, 1; green space, 1; courts, 1; snowshoeing, 1; community ceters, 1; skateparks, 1; children's recreation, 1; surf wave, 1; bocce ball, 1; fishing ponds, 1; younger age sports, 1; fishing, 1; birding, 1; skate parks, 1; picnicking, 1; equestrian, 1; art classes, 1; doog training, 1; dog parks, 1; art, 1; outdoor science education, 1; adult sports eagues, 1; outdoor recreation, 1; ADA parks, 1; outdoor exercise, 1; NIA, 1.

**Table 39: Question 6**

<b>What is the furthest you and your household will travel to get to each of the following types of natural areas or outdoor recreation in the City of Spokane? (Please select the furthest for each).</b>	<b>Wouldn't use them at all</b>	<b>Less than a ¼ mile</b>	<b>¼ to ½ mile</b>	<b>½ mile to 1 mile</b>	<b>2 to 5 miles</b>	<b>6 to 12 miles</b>	<b>13+ miles</b>	<b>Total</b>
Trailheads or Natural Lands (natural surface trails)	2%	0%	1%	3%	15%	26%	53%	100%
Neighborhood Park (with amenities like a playground, picnic tables, paths)	1%	3%	10%	22%	41%	14%	9%	100%
Community Park (with amenities like a splashpad, sport courts, or a large playground)	6%	2%	5%	15%	42%	19%	11%	100%
Regional Park or Special Use Park (with amenities like an aquatics center or sports complex)	7%	1%	2%	4%	34%	31%	22%	100%
Paved Recreation Trail (urban trail)	3%	2%	3%	10%	30%	26%	24%	100%



**Table 40: Question 7**

<b>{IF YOU SELECTED 'WOULDN'T USE' IN Q6] Why wouldn't you use these parks or natural areas at all? (Choose all that apply)</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Not interested in using	74%
Other	26%
I can't get there by foot	6%
I can't get there by bike	4%
I don't have a car/too hard to get there without a car	3%
I use transit and there are no good bus routes to get there	3%

**Table 41: Question 8**

<b>Have you or any member of your household participated in any of the City of Spokane's recreation activities or programs? Examples might include swim lessons, outdoor camps, art classes, organized sports leagues, or wellness activities like yoga or martial arts.</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Total</b>
Have you or any member of your household participated in any of the City of Spokane's recreation activities or programs?	55%	45%	100%

**Table 42: Question 9**

<b>What prevents you or others in your household from using Spokane recreation facilities, programs, parks, or natural lands more often? (Select the top 3)</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Nothing prevents us from using more often	40%
Do not know where to go/unfamiliar with offerings	25%
The hours/timing are not convenient	14%
I do not feel safe in these locations	13%
Program fees are too expensive	11%
Locations or facilities are too crowded	11%
We do not have the time	11%
They are poorly maintained or damaged	10%
Hard to find a place to park if I drive	10%
Don't offer the programs I/we want	9%
Other	8%
Not easy to get there by bus, bike or walking	6%
Facilities lack the right equipment/amenities	5%
I/we are not interested	4%
Equipment for desired sports/activities is too costly	3%
Not accessible for people with disabilities	2%
Poor customer service by staff	1%

**Table 43: Question 10**

<b>In the past year, did you have any unpleasant experiences in any of the City of Spokane's parks or natural areas?</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Total</b>
In the past year, did you have any unpleasant experiences in any of the City of Spokane's parks or natural areas?	34%	66%	100%



**Table 44: Question 11**

<b>Please describe the unpleasant experience:</b>	<b>Percent of respondents</b>
Homeless people, illegal camping	49%
Trash/garbage and vandalism	25%
Drug use	20%
Crime/harassment	18%
Bathrooms/porta potties	13%
Dog issues	11%
Maintenance issues/rundown/updates needed	9%
Accessibility, things closed	4%
Other comment	3%
Driving and biking safety concerns	3%
Noise, crowds	3%
Parking	2%
Rude staff, poorly staffed	2%

**Table 45: Question 12**

<b>Communities offer parks and recreation facilities and programs for various reasons. Please rate how important each of these purposes is to you.</b>	<b>Essential</b>	<b>Very important</b>	<b>Sum of essential and very important</b>	<b>Somewhat important</b>	<b>Not at all important</b>	<b>Total</b>
Encourage people to spend time outdoors/in nature	58%	34%	91%	8%	1%	100%
Provide opportunity to connect with nature	61%	30%	91%	8%	1%	100%
Provide places for people to maintain and improve their health	55%	33%	87%	11%	1%	100%
Provide greater mobility with trails and paths for exercise and non-motorized transportation	47%	36%	82%	16%	2%	100%
Provide recreation opportunities and programs to people and communities in historically under-resourced areas.	44%	36%	79%	17%	3%	100%
Enhance the community's economic vitality, making Spokane attractive to live, work and do business	47%	31%	78%	17%	5%	100%
Provide wellness, recreation, and social activities and programs	40%	37%	76%	21%	3%	100%
Provide social opportunities, places to gather and community events	33%	43%	76%	22%	2%	100%
Promote appreciation and preservation of the cultural and natural heritage of the community	39%	33%	73%	23%	5%	100%
Attract visitors and promote tourism through special events and tournaments	26%	28%	53%	34%	13%	100%
Provide sports leagues and sport skill development	17%	34%	51%	39%	9%	100%



**Table 46: Question 13**

<b>Natural lands (open spaces) within the City of Spokane can serve a variety of purposes. Please rate how important each of these purposes is to you.</b>	<b>Essential</b>	<b>Very important</b>	<b>Sum of essential and very important</b>	<b>Somewhat important</b>	<b>Not at all important</b>	<b>Total</b>
Conserve lands around rivers/streams/creeks and floodplains	74%	21%	95%	4%	1%	100%
Conserve ponds, lakes, and wetlands	71%	23%	94%	5%	1%	100%
Preserve areas with beautiful or unique natural features	60%	33%	93%	7%	0%	100%
Conserve native plants, sensitive landscapes and forests	69%	23%	92%	7%	1%	100%
Protect wildlife habitat	64%	27%	91%	8%	1%	100%
Provide a natural setting for outdoor activities/exploration	47%	42%	89%	10%	1%	100%
Provide close by/easy to get to places to escape urban life	50%	39%	89%	10%	1%	100%
Provide recreation trails and greenways	47%	42%	88%	11%	0%	100%
Preserve scenic views and cultural landscapes	54%	35%	88%	11%	1%	100%
Manage development at the urban boundaries for fire resiliency	53%	33%	86%	12%	2%	100%
Provide places to exercise pets	20%	30%	50%	38%	12%	100%

**Table 47: Question 14**

<b>To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about parks, recreation, and natural lands provided by the City?</b>	<b>Strongly agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Sum of strongly agree and agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly disagree</b>	<b>No opinion/Don't know</b>	<b>Total</b>
I would support physically changing portions of parks to meadows or natural space be more sustainable and use less resources (water, fossil fuels, etc.).	35%	40%	75%	12%	4%	10%	100%
Lack of restrooms at parks, sports fields, and natural lands is a problem	25%	44%	69%	19%	2%	10%	100%
I am satisfied with the level of maintenance of the developed parks.	6%	61%	67%	22%	8%	4%	100%
Lack of accessory improvements such as trash bins, benches, signs, lighting, etc. at parks, sports fields, and trailheads is a problem	20%	46%	66%	20%	2%	12%	100%
I am satisfied with the level of maintenance of the natural lands.	5%	60%	65%	21%	4%	10%	100%
The City should improve the frequency of cleaning, garbage removal, mowing, and general upkeep.	25%	38%	63%	19%	1%	17%	100%
There is a general lack of public awareness of park rules	20%	42%	62%	19%	2%	18%	100%
The City needs to do more to make parks and programs welcoming and accessible	15%	39%	54%	23%	3%	21%	100%
The City needs to do more to make parks and programs serve all abilities.	16%	38%	54%	18%	2%	26%	100%
The City needs to do more to make parks and programs serve all ages.	16%	35%	51%	23%	3%	23%	100%
Behavior of others in the parks and natural lands detracts from my use	17%	34%	51%	34%	5%	10%	100%
Overcrowding and damage to park resources and trails is a problem	13%	39%	51%	28%	2%	18%	100%



To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about parks, recreation, and natural lands provided by the City?	Strongly agree	Agree	Sum of strongly agree and agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No opinion/Don't know	Total
I am satisfied with the recreation programs and activities offered by the City.	5%	46%	50%	13%	3%	34%	100%
Parks are equitably distributed within the City.	5%	39%	44%	25%	9%	22%	100%
Getting to parks, trails, and natural lands by bicycling or walking is a challenge	10%	26%	36%	36%	7%	22%	100%
Getting to parks, trails, and natural lands using public transportation (buses) is a challenge	8%	20%	28%	15%	5%	52%	100%
User fees for park programs and activities are too high.	6%	17%	23%	37%	7%	33%	100%
Getting to community and senior centers is a challenge	2%	7%	9%	19%	4%	68%	100%
It is too far from my home to get to parks and natural lands	2%	7%	9%	56%	29%	6%	100%

**Table 48: Question 14 (Excluding No Opinion/Don't Know)**

To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about parks, recreation, and natural lands provided by the City?	Strongly agree	Agree	Sum of strongly agree and agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Total
I would support physically changing portions of parks to meadows or natural space be more sustainable and use less resources (water, fossil fuels, etc.).	38%	44%	83%	13%	4%	100%
Lack of restrooms at parks, sports fields, and natural lands is a problem	28%	49%	77%	21%	2%	100%
I am satisfied with the recreation programs and activities offered by the City.	7%	69%	76%	20%	4%	100%
The City should improve the frequency of cleaning, garbage removal, mowing, and general upkeep.	30%	46%	76%	23%	1%	100%
Lack of accessory improvements such as trash bins, benches, signs, lighting, etc. at parks, sports fields, and trailheads is a problem	23%	52%	75%	23%	2%	100%
There is a general lack of public awareness of park rules	24%	51%	75%	23%	2%	100%
The City needs to do more to make parks and programs serve all abilities.	22%	51%	73%	24%	3%	100%
I am satisfied with the level of maintenance of the natural lands.	5%	67%	72%	23%	5%	100%
I am satisfied with the level of maintenance of the developed parks.	6%	64%	70%	22%	8%	100%
The City needs to do more to make parks and programs welcoming and accessible	18%	49%	68%	29%	3%	100%
The City needs to do more to make parks and programs serve all ages.	21%	45%	67%	29%	4%	100%
Overcrowding and damage to park resources and trails is a problem	15%	47%	63%	34%	3%	100%
Getting to parks, trails, and natural lands using public transportation (buses) is a challenge	17%	42%	59%	31%	10%	100%



To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about parks, recreation, and natural lands provided by the City?	Strongly agree	Agree	Sum of strongly agree and agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Total
Behavior of others in the parks and natural lands detracts from my use	19%	38%	57%	37%	6%	100%
Parks are equitably distributed within the City.	6%	50%	56%	32%	12%	100%
Getting to parks, trails, and natural lands by bicycling or walking is a challenge	12%	33%	46%	46%	9%	100%
User fees for park programs and activities are too high.	9%	25%	34%	55%	11%	100%
Getting to community and senior centers is a challenge	6%	23%	30%	59%	11%	100%
It is too far from my home to get to parks and natural lands	2%	7%	10%	60%	31%	100%

Table 49: Question 15

How important, if at all, do you think it is for the City to seek funding to do the following in the next 5 years?	Essential	Very important	Sum of essential and very important	Somewhat important	Not at all important	Total
Build new parks on land the city already owns to improve neighborhood access to a park	32%	41%	73%	22%	5%	100%
Renovate/enhance existing parks and natural areas	31%	40%	70%	26%	4%	100%
Seek additional funding to create and maintain existing offerings	31%	34%	66%	28%	7%	100%
Improve daily maintenance and management of existing parks	30%	35%	65%	30%	5%	100%
Expand the park system by acquiring new property for parks and natural lands	32%	27%	59%	29%	12%	100%
Expand recreation program and community facilities offerings	13%	23%	37%	48%	15%	100%

**Table 50: Question 16**

<b>In the next few years, the City will consider developing some new park amenities. Which of the following would you prefer they focus on first?</b>	<b>Strongly prefer</b>	<b>Somewhat prefer</b>	<b>Sum of strongly and somewhat prefer</b>	<b>Do not prefer</b>	<b>Don't know</b>	<b>Total</b>
Add restrooms	50%	38%	88%	7%	5%	100%
Improve trailheads on natural lands	50%	38%	87%	6%	7%	100%
Add unpaved trails for hiking	49%	37%	87%	7%	6%	100%
Acquire additional natural lands	53%	29%	82%	11%	6%	100%
Add paved walking paths	30%	43%	73%	22%	5%	100%
Add dog parks / Off-leash dog areas	31%	35%	66%	26%	7%	100%
Develop an indoor pool	30%	28%	58%	35%	7%	100%
Add designated fishing areas	18%	33%	51%	30%	19%	100%
Add a mountain bike park/pump track	17%	32%	49%	36%	15%	100%
Add disc-golf courses	14%	32%	46%	40%	14%	100%
Add outdoor running tracks	12%	32%	44%	45%	11%	100%
Add skate parks	11%	32%	43%	44%	13%	100%
Add outdoor pickleball courts	15%	29%	43%	40%	17%	100%
Develop additional sports fields	7%	23%	30%	54%	16%	100%
Develop artificial turf fields for sports	8%	19%	27%	57%	16%	100%
Add dedicated lacrosse fields	2%	12%	14%	67%	19%	100%



**Table 51: Question 16 (Excluding Don't Know)**

In the next few years, the City will consider developing some new park amenities. Which of the following would you prefer they focus on first?	Strongly prefer	Somewhat prefer	Sum of strongly and somewhat prefer	Do not prefer	Total
Improve trailheads on natural lands	53%	40%	93%	7%	100%
Add restrooms	53%	40%	92%	8%	100%
Add unpaved trails for hiking	53%	40%	92%	8%	100%
Acquire additional natural lands	57%	31%	88%	12%	100%
Add paved walking paths	31%	46%	77%	23%	100%
Add dog parks / Off-leash dog areas	34%	38%	71%	29%	100%
Develop an indoor pool	33%	30%	63%	37%	100%
Add designated fishing areas	22%	40%	63%	37%	100%
Add a mountain bike park/pump track	20%	38%	58%	42%	100%
Add disc-golf courses	16%	37%	54%	46%	100%
Add outdoor pickleball courts	18%	34%	52%	48%	100%
Add skate parks	13%	37%	50%	50%	100%
Add outdoor running tracks	13%	36%	49%	51%	100%
Develop additional sports fields	9%	27%	36%	64%	100%
Develop artificial turf fields for sports	10%	22%	32%	68%	100%
Add dedicated lacrosse fields	3%	14%	17%	83%	100%

**Table 52: Question 17**

<b>In the next few years, the City will consider developing some new park amenities. Which of the following would you prefer they focus on first? Other responses</b>	<b>Percent of respondents mentioning an other focus</b>
Improve current amenities	17%
Protect/conserve natural areas and water	12%
Address safety and homeless issue	12%
Other	11%
Develop an indoor pool	7%
Add dog parks / Off-leash dog areas	7%
Add restrooms	6%
Nothing	6%
Add bike path	6%
Acquire additional natural lands	3%
Add paved walking paths	3%
Add playgrounds	3%
Access to river and river activities	3%
Accessibility for people with various needs	3%
Add skate parks	2%
Add outdoor pickleball courts	2%
Add disc-golf courses	2%
Add unpaved trails for hiking	2%
Add tennis courts/lights to courts	2%
Add splash pad	2%
Add drinking water source	2%
Basketball/volleyball/racquetball/bocce ball	2%
Add art/educational/cultural/musical amenities	2%
Add communication/information for park users	2%



In the next few years, the City will consider developing some new park amenities. Which of the following would you prefer they focus on first? Other responses	Percent of respondents mentioning an other focus
Develop additional sports fields	1%
Add a mountain bike park/pump track	1%
Improve trailheads on natural lands	1%
Add/improve golf course	1%
Add parking	1%
Add indoor sports facility/rec center	1%
Add dedicated lacrosse fields	0%
Add outdoor running tracks	0%
Develop artificial turf fields for sports	0%
Add designated fishing areas	0%
Add ice rink	0%

Table 53: Question 20

How long have you lived in Spokane?	Less than 1 year	1 to 4 years	5 to 9 years	10 to 14 years	15 to 19 years	More than 20 years	Total
How long have you lived in Spokane?	3%	15%	16%	0%	10%	57%	100%

**Table 54: Question 21**

<b>Do you rent or own your home?</b>	<b>I rent</b>	<b>I own</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>Total</b>
Do you rent or own your home?	34%	63%	2%	100%

**Table 55: Question 22**

<b>Does your home or apartment complex have yard or outdoor spaces for play/relaxation?</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Total</b>
Does your home or apartment complex have yard or outdoor spaces for play/relaxation?	85%	15%	100%

**Table 56: Question 23**

<b>Do you live in a single-family detached home, or in another type of home, like an apartment, townhome, condo or something else?</b>	<b>Single-Family Detached Home</b>	<b>Attached house (duplex, triplex, townhome)</b>	<b>Apartment</b>	<b>Mobile/manufactured home</b>	<b>Group quarters (college dorms, student housing, group homes, nursing home, short-term &amp; transitional housing, etc.)</b>	<b>I am currently unhoused</b>	<b>Total</b>
Do you live in a single-family detached home, or in another type of home, like an apartment, townhome, condo or something else?	75%	9%	15%	1%	1%	0%	100%



**Table 57: Question 24**

Do any of the following (including yourself) live in your household?	Yes	No	Total
Children (ages 12 and under)	38%	62%	100%
Teenagers (ages 13 to 19)	20%	80%	100%
Adults (ages 20 to 54)	76%	24%	100%
Adults (ages 55 or older)	47%	53%	100%
Dogs	55%	45%	100%

**Table 58: Question 25**

Please describe your annual household income:	Less than \$25,000	\$25,000 to \$49,999	\$50,000 to \$74,999	\$75,000 to \$99,999	\$100,000 to \$124,999	Over \$125,000	Total
Please describe your annual household income:	7%	20%	22%	17%	14%	19%	100%

**Table 59: Question 26**

Which category contains your age?	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75-84	85+	Total
Which category contains your age?	6%	25%	21%	12%	16%	16%	3%	1%	100%

**Table 60: Question 27**

Which gender do you identify as?	Female	Male	Non-binary	Transgender	I identify in another way	Prefer to self-describe	Prefer not to say	Total
Which gender do you identify as?	50%	45%	1%	0%	0%	0%	3%	100%

**Table 61: Question 28 (Other gender identity)**

Please describe
Android
changes day to day depending on my mood.
Child of God
Demi-Fem. Female presenting Non-Binary
Transgender man, aka transman. There's more to gender labels than just saying I'm transgender.

**Table 62: Question 29**

Which race or ethnicity do you most identify with? Please check all that apply.	Percent
American Indian and Alaska Native	2%
Asian	1%
Black or African American	1%
Hispanic or Latino/a/x	5%
Middle Eastern or North African	0%
Multiracial or Multiethnic	2%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	1%
White	93%
Another race or ethnicity,	2%



**Table 63: Question 30 (Other race or ethnicity)**

<b>Please describe (another race or ethnicity)</b>	<b>Count</b>
Don't identify with any of the above	0
Earthling	1
Eurasian	1
Human	5
Human (race)	1
Human Race	1
Human race!	1
I am a member of the human race.	1
I do not think race is a helpful or accurate category.	1
Irish Mexican	2
It would be racist to add this information to make decisions about parks and open spaces. We are all human.	1
No	1
Not applicable	1
Prefer not to answer	1
Prefer not to say	2
Race is a social construct I do not identify with.	1
We are not the same I am a Martian.	2

## Appendix C: Comparisons of Address Sample Survey Results by District

For ease of comparison between subgroups, the questions show summarized responses for only the proportion of respondents giving a **positive answer**; for example, the percent of respondents who “strongly or somewhat agreed” or gave a rating of “very or somewhat positive” or “more favorable”.

The subgroup comparison tables contain the cross tabulations of survey questions by selected respondent characteristics. **Chi-square or ANOVA tests of significance were applied to these breakdowns of survey questions. A “p-value” of 0.05 or less** indicates that there is less than a 5% probability that differences observed between groups are due to chance; or in other words, a greater than 95% probability that the differences observed in the selected categories of the sample represent “real” differences among those populations.

For each pair of subgroups that has a statistically significant difference, an uppercase letter denoting significance is shown in the category with the larger column proportion. The letter denotes the category with the smaller column proportion from which it is statistically different. Differences were marked as statistically significant if the probability that the differences were due to chance alone were less than 5%. Where there are statistically significant differences by District, cells were also shaded grey. Items that have no uppercase letter denotation in their column and that are also not referred to in any other column were not statistically different.

### Highlights of Differences in Responses by District

#### Top 5 activities in City of Spokane parks or natural areas

- Enjoying nature and/or wildlife was more likely to be a top 5 activity in Spokane’s parks or natural areas for residents in Districts 2 and 3 (79% and 74%, respectively) compared to those in District 1 (57%).
- Those in District 2 were more likely to say a top 5 activity was to relax/contemplate/meditate (46%) compared to those in Districts 1 and 3 (about one-quarter of respondents).
- Picnicking and fishing were more likely to be a top 5 activity of District 1 residents compared to residents of Districts 2 and 3.
- District 3 residents were more likely to use walking and hiking trails compared to residents in Districts 1 and 2.

#### Use of City of Spokane Parks and Recreation Department offerings/places

- Residents of Districts 2 and 3 were more likely to have used neighborhood parks, regional and special use parks, wellness and enrichment programs, golf courses and trails than were residents of District 1.



Recreation places or offerings needing upgrades

- Residents of District 1 were more likely to report that sports complexes, outdoor sports fields and wellness & enrichment programs needed upgrades or improvements compared to residents of Districts 2 and 3.
- Residents of District 2 were the most likely to feel that therapeutic recreation services needed improvement compared to those in Districts 1 and 3.

Barriers to using Spokane recreation facilities, programs, parks, or natural lands

- Residents of District 1 were more likely to cite the cost of equipment and feeling unsafe as potential barriers compared to residents of Districts 2 and 3.

Ratings of the importance of various purposes for natural lands

- Residents of District 1 placed higher importance on providing places to exercise pets as a purpose for natural lands compared to residents of Districts 2 and 3.

Agreement with statements about parks, recreation, and natural lands provided by the City

- While residents of District 1 were more likely to agree that parks are distributed equitably within the City compared to residents of Districts 2 and 3 (especially compared to District 2), they were also more likely to agree that getting to community and senior centers is a challenge, that it is too far from their homes to get to parks and natural lands, and that a lack of improvements is a problem, that overcrowding and damage is a problem compared to residents of Districts 2 and 3.

**Table 64: Question 1 by District**

What do you or anyone in your household like to do in City of Spokane's parks and/or natural areas? (Select the top 5)	District 1	District 2	District 3
	(A)	(B)	(C)
Enjoy nature and/or wildlife	57%	79% A	74%
Relax/contemplate/meditate	24%	46% A C	23%
Spend time with family and/or friends	64%	49%	49%
Use playgrounds	33%	26%	28%
Picnic / BBQ	30% B	8%	16%
Large group gatherings/celebrations	9%	6%	9%
Team sports	4%	6%	7%
Individual sports	5%	5%	1%
Exercise	16%	28%	31%
Take the Numerica SkyRide, ride the carousel, use the Numerica skate ribbon	15%	9%	12%
Use cross country ski/snowshoe trails	3%	10%	12%
Use walking and hiking trails	54%	67%	80% A
Use biking trails	27%	29%	24%
Roller skate or scooter	2%	3%	1%
Walk my dog / Use off leash dog areas	25%	25%	21%
Fish	22% B C	8%	5%
Kayak/Raft/Canoe/Stand Up Paddleboard	18%	17%	13%
Attend special events (like Hoopfest, Pig out in the Park, Farmers Markets)	24%	28%	35%
Participate in an outdoor education/environmental program	1%	4%	3%
Use splash pads / pools	35%	21%	20%

What do you or anyone in your household like to do in City of Spokane's parks and/or natural areas? (Select the top 5)	District 1	District 2	District 3
	(A)	(B)	(C)
I don't use them	3%	0%	2%
Other	5%	1%	2%



**Table 65: Question 3 by District**

Below is a list of some recreational offerings/places provided by the City of Spokane Parks and Recreation Department. Please indicate whether you or anyone in your household have ever used these? (Percent have used)	District 1	District 2	District 3
	(A)	(B)	(C)
Playgrounds	78%	72%	67%
Neighborhood parks (e.g. Rochester, Poly Judd, Ben Burr, Liberty, Comstock, Audubon Park)	77%	92% A	89% A
Regional and special use parks (e.g., Manito Park, Finch Arboretum, Camp Sekani Park, Riverfront Park)	93%	100% A	98%
Sports complexes (e.g., Dwight Merkel, Southeast Sports Complex, Franklin Park)	44%	38%	52%
Open space and natural lands (. e.g., Palisades Park, Drumheller Springs, High Drive Park)	65%	77%	68%
Outdoor sports courts (e.g. tennis, handball, pickleball, basketball, etc.)	41%	36%	38%
Outdoor sports fields (e.g., soccer, football, softball, baseball, etc.)	32%	40%	34%
Outdoor aquatic facilities (including pools and splash pads)	70%	61%	51%
City recreation buildings, community centers, and senior centers	38%	40%	32%
Corbin Art Center classes and camps	8%	19%	17%
Therapeutic Recreation Services	3%	5%	6%
Wellness and enrichment programs (music, yoga, other)	11%	27% A	20%
Sports leagues and teams	25%	24%	25%
Volunteer activities	18%	21%	11%
Picnic facilities	73%	65%	61%
Boat / kayak / canoe launch pads	41%	42%	41%
Golf courses	17%	35% A	34%
Golf courses for non-golf purposes	8%	16%	10%
Walking/running/hiking trails	85%	96% A	94%
Mountain bike trails	35%	42%	36%

**Table 66: Question 4 by District**

How much, if at all, do you think any of the following needs upgrading or improvement? (Percent great or moderate need for improvement)	District 1	District 2	District 3
	(A)	(B)	(C)
Playgrounds	39%	31%	34%
My neighborhood park (e.g., Rochester, Polly Judd, Ben Burr, Liberty, Comstock, Audubon Park)	46%	36%	38%
Regional and special use parks (e.g., Finch Arboretum, Camp Sekani, Riverfront Park)	28%	20%	20%
Sports complexes (e.g., Dwight Merkel and Franklin Park)	35% B	12%	16%
Open space and natural lands (e.g., Palisades, High Drive Park.)	18%	23%	26%
Outdoor sports courts (e.g. tennis, handball, pickleball, basketball, etc.)	33%	39%	24%
Outdoor sports fields (e.g., soccer, football, softball, baseball, etc.)	47% B C	14%	22%
Outdoor aquatic facilities (including pools and splash pads)	35%	26%	24%
City recreation buildings, community centers, and senior centers	36%	41%	26%
Corbin Art classes and camps	9%	16%	6%
Therapeutic Recreation Services	0%	36% A	20%
Wellness and enrichment programs (music, yoga, other)	54% C	41%	19%
Sports leagues and teams	15%	8%	21%
Volunteer activities	41%	39%	25%
Picnic facilities	38%	24%	29%
Boat, Canoe & Kayak launch pads	9%	27%	19%
Golf courses	4%	12%	23%
Paved Trails (Cycling/Walking/running/hiking)	12%	29%	26%
Unpaved Trails (Mountain bike, trail walking)	18%	22%	30%

**Table 67: Question 6 by District**

What is the furthest you and your household will travel to get to each of the following types of natural areas or outdoor recreation in the City of Spokane? (Percent would not use at all)		District 1	District 2	District 3
		(A)	(B)	(C)
Trailheads or Natural Lands (natural surface trails)	Wouldn't use them at all	17% B	3%	6%
	Less than a ¼ mile	3%	1%	1%
	¼ to ½ mile	0%1	0%	2%
	½ mile to 1 mile	10% B C	1%	2%
	2 to 5 miles	8%	20%	14%
	6 to 12 miles	21%	20%	28%
	13+ miles	40%	55%	47%
Neighborhood Park (with amenities like a playground, picnic tables, paths)	Wouldn't use them at all	1%	1%	1%
	Less than a ¼ mile	11% B	3%	5%
	¼ to ½ mile	4%	11%	10%
	½ mile to 1 mile	27%	17%	32% B
	2 to 5 miles	32%	43%	30%
	6 to 12 miles	12%	19%	18%
	13+ miles	12%	7%	5%
Community Park (with amenities like a splashpad, sport courts, or a large playground)	Wouldn't use them at all	8%	6%	12%
	Less than a ¼ mile	6%	0%1	2%
	¼ to ½ mile	4%	4%	3%
	½ mile to 1 mile	14%	17%	19%
	2 to 5 miles	42%	40%	33%
	6 to 12 miles	16%	24%	25%
	13+ miles	11%	10%	6%



What is the furthest you and your household will travel to get to each of the following types of natural areas or outdoor recreation in the City of Spokane? (Percent would not use at all)		District 1	District 2	District 3
		(A)	(B)	(C)
Regional Park or Special Use Park (with amenities like an aquatics center or sports complex)	Wouldn't use them at all	9%	5%	18% B
	Less than a ¼ mile	6%	1%	1%
	¼ to ½ mile	2%	1%	1%
	½ mile to 1 mile	9%	5%	6%
	2 to 5 miles	30%	33%	31%
	6 to 12 miles	23%	34%	28%
	13+ miles	22%	21%	15%
Paved Recreation Trail (urban trail)	Wouldn't use them at all	7%	5%	5%
	Less than a ¼ mile	2%	5%	5%
	¼ to ½ mile	6%	2%	2%
	½ mile to 1 mile	8%	13%	10%
	2 to 5 miles	43% C	35%	23%
	6 to 12 miles	9%	22%	34% A
	13+ miles	25%	18%	21%

**Table 68: Question 7 by District**

{IF YOU SELECTED 'WOULDN'T USE' IN Q6] Why wouldn't you use these parks or natural areas at all? (Choose all that apply)	District 1	District 2	District 3
	(A)	(B)	(C)
Not interested in using	71%	53%	49%
I don't have a car/too hard to get there without a car	12%	19%	3%
I use transit and there are no good bus routes to get there	6%	19%	0%
I can't get there by bike	0%	4%	0%
I can't get there by foot	6%	4%	10%
Other	22%	32%	54%

**Table 69: Question 8 by District**

Have you or any member of your household participated in any of the City of Spokane's recreation activities or programs? (Percent yes)	District 1	District 2	District 3
	(A)	(B)	(C)
Have you or any member of your household participated in any of the City of Spokane's recreation activities or programs?	33%	37%	37%

**Table 70: Question 9 by District**

What prevents you or others in your household from using Spokane recreation facilities, programs, parks, or natural lands more often? (Select the top 3)	District 1	District 2	District 3
	(A)	(B)	(C)
Nothing prevents us from using more often	36%	42%	34%
Do not know where to go/unfamiliar with offerings	43%	36%	30%
Don't offer the programs I/we want	2%	7%	2%
Program fees are too expensive	16%	6%	13%
Equipment for desired sports/activities is too costly	14% B	2%	9% B
Not easy to get there by bus, bike or walking	5%	5%	7%
The hours/timing are not convenient	6%	14%	17%
They are poorly maintained or damaged	11%	8%	7%
Facilities lack the right equipment/amenities	6%	8% C	1%
Locations or facilities are too crowded	4%	10%	7%
I do not feel safe in these locations	20% B	7%	11%
Not accessible for people with disabilities	2%	3%	4%
Poor customer service by staff	0%	1%	0%
Hard to find a place to park if I drive	8%	9%	10%
I/we are not interested	3%	4%	8%
We do not have the time	14%	20%	19%
Other	10%	9%	8%



**Table 71: Question 10 by District**

In the past year, did you have any unpleasant experiences in any of the City of Spokane's parks or natural areas? (Percent yes)	District 1	District 2	District 3
	(A)	(B)	(C)
In the past year, did you have any unpleasant experiences in any of the City of Spokane's parks or natural areas?	20%	27%	17%

**Table 72: Question 12 by District**

Communities offer parks and recreation facilities and programs for various reasons. Please rate how important each of these purposes is to you. (Percent essential or very important)	District 1	District 2	District 3
	(A)	(B)	(C)
Provide places for people to maintain and improve their health	84%	91%	85%
Provide wellness, recreation, and social activities and programs	80%	68%	69%
Enhance the community's economic vitality, making Spokane attractive to live, work and do business	85%	80%	72%
Attract visitors and promote tourism through special events and tournaments	64%	58%	61%
Encourage people to spend time outdoors/in nature	82%	88%	87%
Provide greater mobility with trails and paths for exercise and non-motorized transportation	77%	85%	84%
Provide sports leagues and sport skill development	68%	54%	50%
Provide recreation opportunities and programs to people and communities in historically under-resourced areas.	86%	83%	72%
Promote appreciation and preservation of the cultural and natural heritage of the community	77%	76%	68%
Provide social opportunities, places to gather and community events	82%	80%	69%
Provide opportunity to connect with nature	82%	90%	91%

**Table 73: Question 13 by District**

Natural lands (open spaces) within the City of Spokane can serve a variety of purposes. Please rate how important each of these purposes is to you. (Percent essential or very important)	District 1	District 2	District 3
	(A)	(B)	(C)
Protect wildlife habitat	93%	96%	90%
Conserve lands around rivers/streams/creeks and floodplains	95%	98%	94%
Conserve ponds, lakes, and wetlands	94%	98%	95%
Conserve native plants, sensitive landscapes and forests	92%	93%	93%
Provide places to exercise pets	66% B	47%	47%
Provide recreation trails and greenways	75%	86%	84%
Provide a natural setting for outdoor activities/exploration	85%	87%	90%
Manage development at the urban boundaries for fire resiliency	86%	91%	90%
Preserve areas with beautiful or unique natural features	86%	96% A	94%
Provide close by/easy to get to places to escape urban life	87%	83%	83%
Preserve scenic views and cultural landscapes	92%	92%	83%

**Table 74: Question 14 by District**

To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about parks, recreation, and natural lands provided by the City? (Percent strongly agree or agree)	District 1	District 2	District 3
	(A)	(B)	(C)
I am satisfied with the level of maintenance of the developed parks.	64%	77%	80%
I am satisfied with the level of maintenance of the natural lands.	82%	82%	73%
I am satisfied with the recreation programs and activities offered by the City.	71%	85%	79%
User fees for park programs and activities are too high.	62% B C	29%	37%
Parks are equitably distributed within the City.	84% B	59%	72%
The City needs to do more to make parks and programs welcoming and accessible	77%	61%	61%
The City needs to do more to make parks and programs serve all abilities.	80%	74%	63%
The City needs to do more to make parks and programs serve all ages.	79% B C	56%	59%
Getting to parks, trails, and natural lands using public transportation (buses) is a challenge	63%	56%	60%
Getting to parks, trails, and natural lands by bicycling or walking is a challenge	44%	30%	38%
Getting to community and senior centers is a challenge	50% B C	20%	21%
It is too far from my home to get to parks and natural lands	25% B	5%	15%
Lack of restrooms at parks, sports fields, and natural lands is a problem	86%	72%	72%
Lack of accessory improvements such as trash bins, benches, signs, lighting, etc. at parks, sports fields, and trailheads is a problem	90% B C	67%	67%
There is a general lack of public awareness of park rules	82%	75%	65%
Behavior of others in the parks and natural lands detracts from my use	62% B	42%	53%
Overcrowding and damage to park resources and trails is a problem	81% B C	49%	56%



To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about parks, recreation, and natural lands provided by the City? (Percent strongly agree or agree)	District 1	District 2	District 3
	(A)	(B)	(C)
The City should improve the frequency of cleaning, garbage removal, mowing, and general upkeep.	80%	65%	76%
I would support physically changing portions of parks to meadows or natural space be more sustainable and use less resources (water, fossil fuels, etc.).	77%	75%	76%

Table 75: Question 15 by District

How important, if at all, do you think it is for the City to seek funding to do the following in the next 5 years? (Percent essential or very important)	District 1	District 2	District 3
	(A)	(B)	(C)
Expand the park system by acquiring new property for parks and natural lands	57%	56%	46%
Build new parks on land the city already owns to improve neighborhood access to a park	74%	72%	67%
Renovate/enhance existing parks and natural areas	81% B	57%	68%
Improve daily maintenance and management of existing parks	81% B	58%	68%
Expand recreation program and community facilities offerings	61% B C	26%	40%
Seek additional funding to create and maintain existing offerings	68%	62%	62%

**Table 76: Question 16 by District**

In the next few years, the City will consider developing some new park amenities. Which of the following would you prefer they focus on first? (Percent strongly or somewhat prefer)	District 1	District 2	District 3
	(A)	(B)	(C)
Develop an indoor pool	70% C	63%	50%
Add dedicated lacrosse fields	22%	10%	15%
Develop additional sports fields	37%	23%	26%
Add outdoor running tracks	49% B	26%	39%
Develop artificial turf fields for sports	38%	26%	26%
Add a mountain bike park/pump track	62% C	45%	40%
Add skate parks	57% C	47%	35%
Add outdoor pickleball courts	38%	37%	33%
Add dog parks / Off-leash dog areas	76% C	62%	56%
Add disc-golf courses	60% C	43%	39%
Acquire additional natural lands	66%	79%	78%
Improve trailheads on natural lands	78%	77%	89%
Add designated fishing areas	74% B C	44%	49%
Add restrooms	94% B	79%	87%
Add paved walking paths	73%	61%	72%
Add unpaved trails for hiking	82%	84%	82%

## Appendix D: Comparisons of Address Sample and Open Participation Survey Responses

### Understanding the Tables

The subgroup comparison tables contain the crosstabulations of responses to the random address survey by responses to the open participation survey. Chi-square or ANOVA tests of significance were applied to these breakdowns of survey questions. A “p-value” of 0.05 or less indicates that there is less than a 5% probability that differences observed between groups are due to chance; or in other words, a greater than 95% probability that the differences observed in the selected categories of the sample represent “real” differences among those populations. As subgroups vary in size and each group has a unique margin of error, statistical testing is used to determine whether differences between subgroups are statistically significant.

Each column in the following tables is labeled with a letter for each subgroup being compared. The letters start over with “A” for each different characteristic. (For example, for housing tenure, renters and owners are marked “A” and “B”, and then for type of housing unit, those in detached homes and attached homes are marked “A” and “B”.)

For each pair of subgroup ratings within a characteristic within a row that has a statistically significant difference, an uppercase letter denoting significance is shown in the cell with the larger column proportion. The letter denotes the subgroup with the smaller column proportion from which it is statistically different. Cells have also been shaded grey when there were statistically significant differences between the address sample survey and the open participation survey responses. Subgroups that have no uppercase letter denotation in their column and that are also not referred to in any other column were not statistically different.

### Highlights from the Results by Survey Sample

#### Top 5 activities in City of Spokane parks or natural areas

- Respondents to the address sample were more likely to report relaxation/contemplation/meditation as a top 5 activity (33%) compared to the open participation survey respondents (22%).
- Open participation survey respondents were more likely to report exercise, team sports or individual sports as a top 5 activity compared to address sample survey respondents.

#### Use of City of Spokane Parks and Recreation Department offerings/places/activities/programs

- Where there were differences between the address sample survey respondents and open participation survey respondents in use of the offerings provided by the Parks and Recreation Department, open participation survey respondents were more likely to have reported using them.



Recreation places or offerings needing upgrades

- Where there were differences between the address sample survey respondents and open participation survey respondents in perceiving a need for upgrades or improvements in the offerings and places provided by the Parks and Recreation Department, open participation survey respondents were more likely to have reported that these needed improvements.

Barriers to using Spokane recreation facilities, programs, parks, or natural lands

- Respondents to the address sample survey were more likely to cite unfamiliarity with the offerings and not having the time to use them as barriers compared to the open participation survey respondents.

Unpleasant experiences in any of the City of Spokane's parks or natural areas

- Respondents to the open participation survey were more likely report having had unpleasant experiences compared to the address sample survey respondents.

Agreement with statements about parks, recreation, and natural lands provided by the City

- Address sample survey respondents were more likely to agree that they were satisfied with the level of maintenance of natural lands, or with the level of maintenance of developed parks compared to open participation survey respondents. Address sample survey respondents were also more likely to agree that parks are equitably distributed than were open participation survey respondents.
- Open participation survey respondents were more likely to agree they would support physically changing to parks to meadows or natural spaces to be more sustainable than were address sample survey respondents. They were also more supportive of expanding the park system by acquiring new property for parks and natural lands. Open participation survey respondents were also more likely to report that the behavior of others detracts from their uses and that getting to these spaces is a challenge than were address sample survey respondents.

Priority focus areas for developing new park amenities

- Open participation survey respondents were more likely to place a priority on improvements to trailheads, acquiring additional natural lands, adding paved walking paths, adding outdoor running tracks and adding outdoor pickleball courts than were address sample survey respondents.

**Table 77: Question 1 by Address Sample vs Open Participation**

What do you or anyone in your household like to do in City of Spokane's parks and/or natural areas? (Select the top 5)	Sampled Addresses	Open Participation
	(A)	(B)
Enjoy nature and/or wildlife	73%	70%
Use walking and hiking trails	69%	70%
Spend time with family and/or friends	52%	44%
	B	
Relax/contemplate/meditate	33%	22%
	B	
Attend special events (like Hoopfest, Pig out in the Park, Farmers Markets)	30%	26%
Use playgrounds	28%	32%
Use biking trails	27%	30%
Exercise	26%	32%
		A
Walk my dog/Use off leash dog areas	24%	27%
Use splash pads/pools	24%	26%
Kayak/Raft/Canoe/Stand Up Paddleboard	16%	20%
Picnic/BBQ	15%	11%
	B	
Take the Numerica SkyRide, ride the carousel, use the Numerica skate ribbon	11%	8%
	B	
Fish	10%	6%
	B	
Use cross country ski/snowshoe trails	9%	10%
Large group gatherings/celebrations	8%	8%
Team sports	6%	13%
		A

What do you or anyone in your household like to do in City of Spokane's parks and/or natural areas? (Select the top 5)	Sampled Addresses	Open Participation
	(A)	(B)
Individual sports	3%	8% A
Participate in an outdoor education/environmental program	3%	4%
Roller skate or scooter	2%	3%
Other	2%	3%
I don't use them	1% B	0%



**Table 78: Question 3 by Address Sample vs Open Participation**

Below is a list of some recreational offerings/places provided by the City of Spokane Parks and Recreation Department. Please indicate whether you or anyone in your household have ever used these? (Percent have used)	Sampled Addresses	Open Participation
	(A)	(B)
Regional and special use parks (e.g., Manito Park, Finch Arboretum, Camp Sekani Park, Riverfront Park)	97%	98%
Walking/running/hiking trails	93%	96% A
Neighborhood parks (e.g. Rochester, Poly Judd, Ben Burr, Liberty, Comstock, Audubon Park)	88%	94% A
Playgrounds	72%	72%
Open space and natural lands (. e.g., Palisades Park, Drumheller Springs, High Drive Park)	71%	83% A
Picnic facilities	65%	71% A
Outdoor aquatic facilities (including pools and splash pads)	59%	68% A
Sports complexes (e.g., Dwight Merkel, Southeast Sports Complex, Franklin Park)	45%	53% A
Boat/kayak/canoe launch pads	41%	50% A
Mountain bike trails	39%	44%
Outdoor sports courts (e.g. tennis, handball, pickleball, basketball, etc.)	38%	49% A
City recreation buildings, community centers, and senior centers	37%	38%
Outdoor sports fields (e.g., soccer, football, softball, baseball, etc.)	36%	50% A
Golf courses	31%	35%

Below is a list of some recreational offerings/places provided by the City of Spokane Parks and Recreation Department. Please indicate whether you or anyone in your household have ever used these? (Percent have used)	Sampled Addresses	Open Participation
	(A)	(B)
Sports leagues and teams	25%	35% A
Wellness and enrichment programs (music, yoga, other)	21%	22%
Volunteer activities	17%	27% A
Corbin Art Center classes and camps	16%	24% A
Golf courses for non-golf purposes	13%	17% A
Therapeutic Recreation Services	5%	5%

**Table 79: Question 4 by Address Sample vs Open Participation**

How much, if at all, do you think any of the following needs upgrading or improvement? (Percent great or moderate need for improvement)	Sampled Addresses	Open Participation
	(A)	(B)
My neighborhood park (e.g., Rochester, Polly Judd, Ben Burr, Liberty, Comstock, Audubon Park)	39%	49% A
Wellness and enrichment programs (music, yoga, other)	36%	34%
City recreation buildings, community centers, and senior centers	35%	40%
Playgrounds	34%	43% A
Volunteer activities	34%	36%
Outdoor sports courts (e.g. tennis, handball, pickleball, basketball, etc.)	32%	42% A
Picnic facilities	29%	37% A
Outdoor aquatic facilities (including pools and splash pads)	27%	35% A
Paved Trails (Cycling/Walking/running/hiking)	25%	39% A
Outdoor sports fields (e.g., soccer, football, softball, baseball, etc.)	24%	27%
Unpaved Trails (Mountain bike, trail walking)	24%	38% A
Open space and natural lands (e.g., Palisades, High Drive Park.)	23%	41% A
Regional and special use parks (e.g., Finch Arboretum, Camp Sekani, Riverfront Park)	22%	28% A
Boat, Canoe & Kayak launch pads	21%	37% A
Sports complexes (e.g., Dwight Merkel and Franklin Park)	18%	24%



How much, if at all, do you think any of the following needs upgrading or improvement? (Percent great or moderate need for improvement)	Sampled Addresses	Open Participation
	(A)	(B)
Therapeutic Recreation Services	18%	32% A
Golf courses	16%	14%
Sports leagues and teams	15%	29% A
Corbin Art classes and camps	10%	29% A

**Table 80: Question 6 by Address Sample vs Open Participation**

What is the furthest you and your household will travel to get to each of the following types of natural areas or outdoor recreation in the City of Spokane? (Percent would not use at all)		Sampled Addresses	Open Participation
		(A)	(B)
Trailheads or Natural Lands (natural surface trails)	Wouldn't use them at all	7% B	2%
	Less than a ¼ mile	2% B	0%
	¼ to ½ mile	1%	1%
	½ mile to 1 mile	2%	2%
	2 to 5 miles	17%	15%
	6 to 12 miles	25%	28%
	13+ miles	46%	52%
Neighborhood Park (with amenities like a playground, picnic tables, paths)	Wouldn't use them at all	1%	1%
	Less than a ¼ mile	5%	4%
	¼ to ½ mile	9%	9%
	½ mile to 1 mile	23%	22%
	2 to 5 miles	36%	41%
	6 to 12 miles	16%	14%
	13+ miles	9%	9%
Community Park (with amenities like a splashpad, sport courts, or a large playground)	Wouldn't use them at all	9% B	5%
	Less than a ¼ mile	2%	2%
	¼ to ½ mile	5%	4%
	½ mile to 1 mile	15%	14%
	2 to 5 miles	39%	44%
	6 to 12 miles	20%	19%
	13+ miles	11%	11%

What is the furthest you and your household will travel to get to each of the following types of natural areas or outdoor recreation in the City of Spokane? (Percent would not use at all)		Sampled Addresses	Open Participation
		(A)	(B)
Regional Park or Special Use Park (with amenities like an aquatics center or sports complex)	Wouldn't use them at all	11% B	7%
	Less than a ¼ mile	2% B	1%
	¼ to ½ mile	1%	1%
	½ mile to 1 mile	6%	5%
	2 to 5 miles	31%	34%
	6 to 12 miles	28%	32%
	13+ miles	21%	21%
Paved Recreation Trail (urban trail)	Wouldn't use them at all	7% B	3%
	Less than a ¼ mile	4%	2%
	¼ to ½ mile	2%	3%
	½ mile to 1 mile	10%	9%
	2 to 5 miles	30%	31%
	6 to 12 miles	25%	27%
	13+ miles	22%	24%



**Table 81: Question 7 by Address Sample vs Open Participation**

{IF YOU SELECTED 'WOULDN'T USE' IN Q6} Why wouldn't you use these parks or natural areas at all? (Choose all that apply)	Sampled Addresses	Open Participation
	(A)	(B)
I use transit and there are no good bus routes to get there	7%	3%
I can't get there by foot	7%	6%
Not interested in using	56%	74% A
I don't have a car/too hard to get there without a car	10% B	3%
I can't get there by bike	1%	5%
Other	39% B	26%

**Table 82: Question 8 by Address Sample vs Open Participation**

Have you or any member of your household participated in any of the City of Spokane's recreation activities or programs? (Percent yes)	Sampled Addresses	Open Participation
	(A)	(B)
Have you or any member of your household participated in any of the City of Spokane's recreation activities or programs?	36%	55% A

**Table 83: Question 9 by Address Sample vs Open Participation**

What prevents you or others in your household from using Spokane recreation facilities, programs, parks, or natural lands more often? (Select the top 3)	Sampled Addresses	Open Participation
	(A)	(B)
Nothing prevents us from using more often	38%	40%
Do not know where to go/unfamiliar with offerings	36% B	25%
We do not have the time	19% B	11%
The hours/timing are not convenient	14%	14%
Program fees are too expensive	11%	11%
I do not feel safe in these locations	11%	13%
Hard to find a place to park if I drive	9%	10%
They are poorly maintained or damaged	8%	10%
Locations or facilities are too crowded	8%	11%
Equipment for desired sports/activities is too costly	7% B	3%
Not easy to get there by bus, bike or walking	6%	6%
I/we are not interested	6%	4%
Facilities lack the right equipment/amenities	5%	6%
Don't offer the programs I/we want	4%	9% A
Not accessible for people with disabilities	3%	3%
Poor customer service by staff	0%	1%
Other	9%	8%

**Table 84: Question 10 by Address Sample vs Open Participation**

In the past year, did you have any unpleasant experiences in any of the City of Spokane's parks or natural areas? (Percent yes)	Sampled Addresses	Open Participation
	(A)	(B)
In the past year, did you have any unpleasant experiences in any of the City of Spokane's parks or natural areas?	22%	34% A

**Table 85: Question 12 by Address Sample vs Open Participation**

Communities offer parks and recreation facilities and programs for various reasons. Please rate how important each of these purposes is to you. (Percent essential or very important)	Sampled Addresses	Open Participation
	(A)	(B)
Provide opportunity to connect with nature	88%	90%
Provide places for people to maintain and improve their health	87%	87%
Encourage people to spend time outdoors/in nature	86%	91% A
Provide greater mobility with trails and paths for exercise and non-motorized transportation	83%	82%
Provide recreation opportunities and programs to people and communities in historically under-resourced areas.	79%	79%
Enhance the community's economic vitality, making Spokane attractive to live, work and do business	78%	78%
Provide social opportunities, places to gather and community events	76%	76%
Promote appreciation and preservation of the cultural and natural heritage of the community	73%	72%
Provide wellness, recreation, and social activities and programs	71%	76% A
Attract visitors and promote tourism through special events and tournaments	60% B	54%
Provide sports leagues and sport skill development	56%	51%



**Table 86: Question 13 by Address Sample vs Open Participation**

Natural lands (open spaces) within the City of Spokane can serve a variety of purposes. Please rate how important each of these purposes is to you. (Percent essential or very important)	Sampled Addresses	Open Participation
	(A)	(B)
Conserve lands around rivers/streams/creeks and floodplains	96%	95%
Conserve ponds, lakes, and wetlands	96%	94%
Protect wildlife habitat	93%	91%
Conserve native plants, sensitive landscapes and forests	93%	92%
Preserve areas with beautiful or unique natural features	93%	93%
Manage development at the urban boundaries for fire resiliency	89%	86%
Preserve scenic views and cultural landscapes	89%	88%
Provide a natural setting for outdoor activities/exploration	87%	89%
Provide recreation trails and greenways	83%	88% A
Provide close by/easy to get to places to escape urban life	83%	89% A
Provide places to exercise pets	51%	50%

**Table 87: Question 14 by Address Sample vs Open Participation**

To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about parks, recreation, and natural lands provided by the City? (Percent strongly agree or agree)	Sampled Addresses	Open Participation
	(A)	(B)
I am satisfied with the recreation programs and activities offered by the City.	80%	76%
I am satisfied with the level of maintenance of the natural lands.	79% B	72%
I would support physically changing portions of parks to meadows or natural space be more sustainable and use less resources (water, fossil fuels, etc.).	76%	83% A
I am satisfied with the level of maintenance of the developed parks.	75% B	70%
Lack of restrooms at parks, sports fields, and natural lands is a problem	75%	76%
There is a general lack of public awareness of park rules	73%	75%
Lack of accessory improvements such as trash bins, benches, signs, lighting, etc. at parks, sports fields, and trailheads is a problem	72%	75%
The City should improve the frequency of cleaning, garbage removal, mowing, and general upkeep.	72%	76%
The City needs to do more to make parks and programs serve all abilities.	71%	73%
Parks are equitably distributed within the City.	69% B	56%
The City needs to do more to make parks and programs welcoming and accessible	65%	68%
The City needs to do more to make parks and programs serve all ages.	63%	67%
Getting to parks, trails, and natural lands using public transportation (buses) is a challenge	60%	59%
Overcrowding and damage to park resources and trails is a problem	58%	63%
Behavior of others in the parks and natural lands detracts from my use	51%	57% A
User fees for park programs and activities are too high.	41%	34%
Getting to parks, trails, and natural lands by bicycling or walking is a challenge	36%	46% A
Getting to community and senior centers is a challenge	27%	30%
It is too far from my home to get to parks and natural lands	13%	10%

**Table 88: Question 15 by Address Sample vs Open Participation**

How important, if at all, do you think it is for the City to seek funding to do the following in the next 5 years? (Percent essential or very important)	Sampled Addresses	Open Participation
	(A)	(B)
Build new parks on land the city already owns to improve neighborhood access to a park	71%	73%
Renovate/enhance existing parks and natural areas	66%	70%
Improve daily maintenance and management of existing parks	66%	66%
Seek additional funding to create and maintain existing offerings	63%	66%
Expand the park system by acquiring new property for parks and natural lands	52%	59% A
Expand recreation program and community facilities offerings	39%	37%



**Table 89: Question 16 by Address Sample vs Open Participation**

In the next few years, the City will consider developing some new park amenities. Which of the following would you prefer they focus on first? (Percent strongly or somewhat prefer)	Sampled Addresses	Open Participation
	(A)	(B)
Add restrooms	85%	88%
Add unpaved trails for hiking	83%	87% A
Improve trailheads on natural lands	82%	87% A
Acquire additional natural lands	76%	82% A
Add paved walking paths	67%	73% A
Add dog parks/Off-leash dog areas	63%	66%
Develop an indoor pool	60%	58%
Add designated fishing areas	52%	51%
Add a mountain bike park/pump track	47%	49%
Add skate parks	45%	43%
Add disc-golf courses	45%	46%
Add outdoor running tracks	36%	44% A
Add outdoor pickleball courts	36%	43% A
Develop artificial turf fields for sports	29%	27%
Develop additional sports fields	27%	30%
Add dedicated lacrosse fields	14%	14%

## Appendix E: Survey Methodology

Polco worked with the Design Workshop team and the City of Spokane to craft a survey to capture community opinion about issues that will be addressed in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The City of Spokane sponsored this research. For more information on this effort, please contact Nick Hamad at [nhamad@spokanecity.org](mailto:nhamad@spokanecity.org).

This survey was implemented in June to August of 2021 through mailed invitations to complete an online survey. Households were selected randomly from a USPS list of Spokane households.

- 4,000 households were randomly selected from a US Postal Service list of all residential addresses geocoded to be in the City of Spokane boundaries.
- Each selected household received one postcard invitations and a follow up letter invitation. The invitation explained the purpose of the survey and provided a URL at which to complete the survey.
- The invitation was in English but included paragraphs in six additional languages directing respondents to URLs where they could complete the survey in Spanish, Russian, Chinese, Marshallese, Vietnamese or Arabic.

Once this effort was underway, the City was provided a separate URL to use to share an **invitation to an “open participation” survey, where all residents who received notice** through social media or other communication channels could complete the survey.

Of the 4,000, a portion of which were returned undeliverable due to a vacancy. A total of 329 completed the random address sample survey for a response rate of 8% and an overall margin of error of  $\pm 5\%$ . Of these responses, two surveys were completed in Marshallese and one in Russian.

Additionally, 3,297 completed the open participation survey, two of which were completed in Spanish and one of which was completed in Russian. The results of the open participation are compared to those of the random address sample in an appendix of this report and the detailed frequencies are provided under separate cover.

Also provided under separate cover are extensive crosstabulations of results by demographic, household and geographic characteristics. The Address-Based sample was limited to addresses within city boundaries, but some respondents to the Open participation survey lived outside the City limits, their responses are shown in the geographic comparisons, under separate cover.

**Table 90: Response by Area and Outreach Method**

	Sampled Addresses	Open Participation	Total
District 1	57	443	500
District 2	145	1,609	1,754
District 3	127	1,055	1,182
Not in Spokane	0	190	190
Total	329	3,297	3,626

The results from the random address sample (as well as, separately, the Open Participation effort) were adjusted through a process known as weighting to be as **reflective of Spokane's overall population, as possible**, using information available from the 2010 Census, 2017 American and information from the USPS address sample. Statistical weights were applied to adjust the sociodemographic characteristics of the respondents (tenure, ethnicity, race, sex and age, household type) to match the sociodemographic characteristics of the City. No adjustments were made for design effects. The results of the weighting are shown in the table below.

**Table 91: Weighting Table for Sample Survey Effort**

	Population Norm*	Address Random Sample		Open Participation Sample	
		Unweighted	Weighted	Unweighted	Weighted
Rent	38%	21%	37%	13%	36%
Own	62%	79%	63%	87%	64%
Single-Family Detached Home	73%	79%	73%	87%	74%
Attached house	27%	21%	27%	13%	26%
White alone, not Hispanic	90%	92%	90%	89%	89%
Hispanic and/or other race	10%	8%	10%	11%	11%
Hispanic	4%	1%	4%	3%	4%
Not Hispanic	96%	99%	96%	97%	96%
Female	51%	54%	51%	68%	51%
Male	49%	46%	49%	32%	49%
18-34	32%	15%	31%	21%	32%
35-54	32%	36%	32%	44%	32%
55+	36%	49%	37%	35%	36%

\* Source of Population Norm: 5-year estimates from the 2017 American Community Survey and 2010 U.S. Census, adult population in households



## Appendix F: Survey Materials

The following pages contain the survey questions, followed by a copy of the invitations that were sent to the randomly selected households.

### Spokane Parks and Natural Lands Survey

**1. What do you or anyone in your household like to do in City of Spokane's parks and/or natural areas? (Select the top 5)**

- Enjoy nature and/or wildlife
- Relax/contemplate/meditate
- Spend time with family and/or friends
- Use playgrounds
- Picnic/BBQ
- Large group gatherings/celebrations
- Team sports
- Individual sports
- Exercise
- Take the Numerica SkyRide, ride the carousel, use the Numerica skate ribbon
- Use cross country ski/snowshoe trails
- Use walking and hiking trails
- Use biking trails
- Roller skate or scooter
- Walk my dog/Use off leash dog areas
- Fish
- Kayak/Raft/Canoe/Stand Up Paddleboard
- Attend special events (like Hoopfest, Pig out in the Park, Farmers Markets)
- Participate in an outdoor education/environmental program
- Use splash pads/pools
- I don't use them
- Other

**2. If Other: please describe?**

**3. Below is a list of some recreational offerings/places provided by the City of Spokane Parks and Recreation Department. Please indicate whether you or anyone in your household have ever used these? A neighborhood park is a smaller park like Cannon Hill Park, while a regional park is a larger one such as Manito Park. Natural lands include areas such as High Drive Park (Bluff Trails).**

- Have used
- Have not used

Playgrounds

Neighborhood parks (e.g. Rochester, Poly Judd, Ben Burr, Liberty, Comstock, Audubon Park)

Regional and special use parks (e.g., Manito Park, Finch Arboretum, Camp Sekani Park, Riverfront Park)

Sports complexes (e.g., Dwight Merkel, Southeast Sports Complex, Franklin Park)

Open space and natural lands (e.g., Palisades Park, Drumheller Springs, High Drive Park)

Outdoor sports courts (e.g. tennis, handball, pickleball, basketball, etc.)

Outdoor sports fields (e.g., soccer, football, softball, baseball, etc.)

Outdoor aquatic facilities (including pools and splash pads)

City recreation buildings, community centers, and senior centers

Corbin Art Center classes and camps

Therapeutic Recreation Services

Wellness and enrichment programs (music, yoga, other)

Sports leagues and teams

Volunteer activities

Picnic facilities

Boat/kayak/canoe launch pads

Golf courses

Golf courses for non-golf purposes

Walking/running/hiking trails

Mountain bike trails

**4. How much, if at all, do you think any of the following needs upgrading or improvement?**

- **Great need for improvement**
- **Moderate need for improvement**
- **Slight need for improvement**
- **No need for improvement**
- **Don't know**

Playgrounds

My neighborhood park (e.g., Rochester, Polly Judd, Ben Burr, Liberty, Comstock, Audubon Park)

Regional and special use parks (e.g., Finch Arboretum, Camp Sekani, Riverfront Park)

Sports complexes (e.g., Dwight Merkel and Franklin Park)

Open space and natural lands (e.g., Palisades, High Drive Park.)

Outdoor sports courts (e.g. tennis, handball, pickleball, basketball, etc.)

Outdoor sports fields (e.g., soccer, football, softball, baseball, etc.)

Outdoor aquatic facilities (including pools and splash pads)

City recreation buildings, community centers, and senior centers

Corbin Art classes and camps

Therapeutic Recreation Services

Wellness and enrichment programs (music, yoga, other)

Sports leagues and teams

Volunteer activities

Picnic facilities

Boat, Canoe & Kayak launch pads

Golf courses

Paved Trails (Cycling/Walking/running/hiking)

Unpaved Trails (Mountain bike, trail walking)

**5. If there are specific parks or programs you feel are in need of improvement, please list them here:**

**6. What is the furthest you and your household will travel to get to each of the following types of natural areas or outdoor recreation in the City of Spokane? (Please select the furthest for each). A neighborhood park is a smaller park like Cannon Hill Park, while a regional park is a larger one such as Manito Park. Natural lands include areas such as High Drive Park (Bluff Trails).**

- **Wouldn't use them at all**
- **Less than a ¼ mile**
- **¼ to ½ mile**
- **½ mile to 1 mile**
- **2 to 5 miles**
- **6 to 12 miles**
- **13+ miles**

Trailheads or Natural Lands (natural surface trails)

Neighborhood Park (with amenities like a playground, picnic tables, paths)

Community Park (with amenities like a splashpad, sport courts, or a large playground)

Regional Park or Special Use Park (with amenities like an aquatics center or sports complex)

Paved Recreation Trail (urban trail)

**7. {IF YOU SELECTED 'WOULDN'T USE' IN Q6} Why wouldn't you use these parks or natural areas at all?  
(Choose all that apply)**

- Not interested in using
- I don't have a car/too hard to get there without a car
- I use transit and there are no good bus routes to get there
- I can't get there by bike
- I can't get there by foot
- Other

**8. Have you or any member of your household participated in any of the City of Spokane's recreation activities or programs? Examples might include swim lessons, outdoor camps, art classes, organized sports leagues, or wellness activities like yoga or martial arts.**

- Yes
- No

**9. What prevents you or others in your household from using Spokane recreation facilities, programs, parks, or natural lands more often? (Select the top 3)**

- Nothing prevents us from using more often
- Do not know where to go/unfamiliar with offerings
- Don't offer the programs I/we want
- Program fees are too expensive
- Equipment for desired sports/activities is too costly
- Not easy to get there by bus, bike or walking
- The hours/timing are not convenient
- They are poorly maintained or damaged
- Facilities lack the right equipment/amenities
- Locations or facilities are too crowded
- I do not feel safe in these locations
- Not accessible for people with disabilities
- Poor customer service by staff
- Hard to find a place to park if I drive
- I/we are not interested
- We do not have the time
- Other

**10. In the past year, did you have any unpleasant experiences in any of the City of Spokane's parks or natural areas?**

- Yes
- No

**11. {IF YES} Please describe the unpleasant experience:**



**12. Communities offer parks and recreation facilities and programs for various reasons. Please rate how important each of these purposes is to you.**

- **Essential**
- **Very important**
- **Somewhat important**
- **Not at all important**

Provide places for people to maintain and improve their health

Provide wellness, recreation, and social activities and programs

Enhance the community's economic vitality, making Spokane attractive to live, work and do business

Attract visitors and promote tourism through special events and tournaments

Encourage people to spend time outdoors/in nature

Provide greater mobility with trails and paths for exercise and non-motorized transportation

Provide sports leagues and sport skill development

Provide recreation opportunities and programs to people and communities in historically under-resourced areas.

Promote appreciation and preservation of the cultural and natural heritage of the community

Provide social opportunities, places to gather and community events

Provide opportunity to connect with nature

**13. Natural lands (open spaces) within the City of Spokane can serve a variety of purposes. Please rate how important each of these purposes is to you.**

- **Essential**
- **Very important**
- **Somewhat important**
- **Not at all important**

Protect wildlife habitat

Conserve lands around rivers/streams/creeks and floodplains

Conserve ponds, lakes, and wetlands

Conserve native plants, sensitive landscapes and forests

Provide places to exercise pets

Provide recreation trails and greenways

Provide a natural setting for outdoor activities/exploration

Manage development at the urban boundaries for fire resiliency

Preserve areas with beautiful or unique natural features

Provide close by/easy to get to places to escape urban life

Preserve scenic views and cultural landscapes

**14. To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about parks, recreation, and natural lands provided by the City?**

- **Strongly agree**
- **Agree**
- **Disagree**
- **Strongly disagree**
- **No opinion/Don't know**

I am satisfied with the level of maintenance of the developed parks.

I am satisfied with the level of maintenance of the natural lands.

I am satisfied with the recreation programs and activities offered by the City.

User fees for park programs and activities are too high.

Parks are equitably distributed within the City.

The City needs to do more to make parks and programs welcoming and accessible

The City needs to do more to make parks and programs serve all abilities.

The City needs to do more to make parks and programs serve all ages.

Getting to parks, trails, and natural lands using public transportation (buses) is a challenge

Getting to parks, trails, and natural lands by bicycling or walking is a challenge

Getting to community and senior centers is a challenge

It is too far from my home to get to parks and natural lands

Lack of restrooms at parks, sports fields, and natural lands is a problem

Lack of accessory improvements such as trash bins, benches, signs, lighting, etc. at parks, sports fields, and trailheads is a problem

There is a general lack of public awareness of park rules

Behavior of others in the parks and natural lands detracts from my use

Overcrowding and damage to park resources and trails is a problem

The City should improve the frequency of cleaning, garbage removal, mowing, and general upkeep.

I would support physically changing portions of parks to meadows or natural space be more sustainable and use less resources (water, fossil fuels, etc.).

**15. How important, if at all, do you think it is for the City to seek funding to do the following in the next 5 years?**

- Essential
- Very important
- Somewhat important
- Not at all important

Expand the park system by acquiring new property for parks and natural lands

Build new parks on land the city already owns to improve neighborhood access to a park

Renovate/enhance existing parks and natural areas

Improve daily maintenance and management of existing parks

Expand recreation program and community facilities offerings

Seek additional funding to create and maintain existing offerings

**16. In the next few years, the City will consider developing some new park amenities. Which of the following would you prefer they focus on first?**

- Strongly prefer
- Somewhat prefer
- Do not prefer
- Don't know

Develop an indoor pool

Add dedicated lacrosse fields

Develop additional sports fields

Add outdoor running tracks

Develop artificial turf fields for sports

Add a mountain bike park/pump track

Add skate parks

Add outdoor pickleball courts

Add dog parks/Off-leash dog areas

Add disc-golf courses

Acquire additional natural lands

Improve trailheads on natural lands

Add designated fishing areas

Add restrooms

Add paved walking paths

Add unpaved trails for hiking

**17. Any other?**

**18. What do you think is important for the City's 10-year plan for parks and natural lands to address?**

**19. If you would like to receive further information and updates related to the Spokane Parks and Natural Lands Master Plan process, please add your email address here.**

**Our last questions are about you and your household. Again, all of your responses to this survey are completely confidential and optional and will be reported in group form only.**

**20. How long have you lived in Spokane?**

- Less than 1 year
- 10 to 14 years
- 1 to 4 years
- 15 to 19 years
- 5 to 9 years
- More than 20 years

**21. Do you rent or own your home?**

- I rent
- I own
- Other

**22. Does your home or apartment complex have yard or outdoor spaces for play/relaxation?**

- Yes
- No

**23. Do you live in a single-family detached home, or in another type of home, like an apartment, townhome, condo or something else?**

- Single-Family Detached Home
- Attached house (duplex, triplex, townhome)
- Apartment
- Mobile/manufactured home
- Group quarters (college dormitories, student housing, group homes, nursing home, short-term housing, transitional housing, etc.)
- I am currently unhoused

**24. Do any of the following (including yourself) live in your household?**

- Yes
- No

Children (ages 12 and under)

Teenagers (ages 13 to 19)

Adults (ages 20 to 54)

Adults (ages 55 or older)

Dogs

**25. Please describe your annual household income:**

- Less than \$25,000
- \$75,000 to \$99,999
- \$25,000 to \$49,999
- \$100,000 to \$124,999
- \$50,000 to \$74,999
- Over \$125,000



**26. Which category contains your age?**

- 18-24
- 35-44
- 55-64
- 75-84
- 25-34
- 45-54
- 65-74
- 85+

**27. Which gender do you identify as?**

- Female
- Male
- Non-binary
- Transgender
- I identify in another way
- Prefer to self-describe
- Prefer not to say

**28. Please describe****29. Which race or ethnicity do you most identify with? Please check all that apply.**

- American Indian and Alaska Native
- Asian
- Black or African American
- Hispanic or Latino/a/x
- Middle Eastern or North African
- Multiracial or Multiethnic
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- White
- Another race or ethnicity,

**30. Please describe (another race or ethnicity)**

Dear Spokane Resident,

It won't take much of your time to make a big difference!

Your household has been randomly selected to participate in an important survey about the future of Parks and Natural Lands in Spokane.

You can go online and complete the **confidential survey** at:

**<https://polco.us/st38gv>**

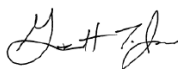
You will need the following access code for the online survey: **12345**

**Please do not share your survey link.** This survey is for randomly selected households only. The City will conduct a separate survey that is open to all residents just a few weeks from now.

If you have any questions about the survey, please call  
Nick Hamad at 509-363-5452.

Thank you for helping plan the future of parks in Spokane!

Sincerely,



Garrett Jones  
Director  
City of Spokane Parks and Recreation



Jennifer Ogden  
President  
Spokane Park Board

en español

**<https://polco.us/st2yvr>**  
código de acceso: **12345**

русский

**<https://polco.us/snv5e>**  
код доступа: **12345**

Tiếng Việt

**<https://polco.us/s3mwb8>**  
mã truy cập: **12345**

Kajin Majel

**<https://polco.us/s9scqw>**  
access code: **12345**

英语

**<https://polco.us/st4qm2>**  
访问代码: **12345**

العربية:

**<https://polco.us/sebvix>**  
كود الدخول: **12345**

5th Floor - City Hall  
808 W. Spokane Falls Blvd  
Spokane, WA 99201



July 2021

Dear City of Spokane Resident:

Please help us shape the future of Spokane! You have been selected at random to participate in this important survey about the future of Parks and Natural Lands in Spokane!

**Please complete the survey online as soon as possible at:**

***<https://polco.us/st38gv>***

**You will need the following access code for the online survey: 12345**

It will only take a few minutes and your participation in this survey is very important—especially since your household is one of only a small number being surveyed.

Your answers to this survey will help guide how parks, trails and natural lands in Spokane are preserved, developed and enjoyed over the next 10 years.

**A few things to remember:**

- **Your responses are confidential and no identifying information will be shared.**
- In order to hear from a diverse group of residents, the adult 18 years or older in your household who most recently had a birthday should complete this survey.
- Once you complete the survey, you will have the *option* to register on Polco to participate in future research efforts with the City.
- Whether you use these resources often or rarely your input is essential!

**Please do not share your survey link.** This survey is for randomly selected households only. The City will conduct a separate survey that is open to all residents just a few weeks from now.

If you have any questions about the survey, please call Nick Hamad at 509-363-5452.

Thank you for your time and participation!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Garrett Jones'.

Garrett Jones  
Director  
City of Spokane Parks and Recreation

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jennifer Ogden'.

Jennifer Ogden  
President  
Spokane Park Board



Por favor, rellene la encuesta en línea lo antes posible en:

**<https://polco.us/st2yvr>**

Necesitará el siguiente código de acceso para la encuesta en línea: **12345**

Просим как можно скорее пройти онлайн-опрос по адресу:

**<https://polco.us/snvy5e>**

Для участия в онлайн-опросе необходимо ввести код доступа: **12345**

Vui lòng hoàn thành khảo sát trực tuyến sớm nhất có thể tại:

**<https://polco.us/s3mwb8>**

Quý vị sẽ cần mã truy cập sau cho khảo sát trực tuyến: **12345**

Jouj im kanne kajjitōk im uwaak kein online ilo iien eo e ṇṇkajtata:

**<https://polco.us/s9scqw>**

Kwōnaaj aikuj code in ñan uwaak kajjitōk ko online: **12345**

请尽快在线完成调查，网址：

**<https://polco.us/st4qm2>**

在线调查需要以下访问代码：**12345**

آل تالاي إلك لفتروني ل موقع على مكن وقتئذ ريفي إلك تيرنت عبر ال سيطر ال ع هذك عبئة استكم ال رجى:

**<https://polco.us/sebvxy>**

آل رأي سيطر ال ع عبئة استكم ال ت مكن و ال لفي ل تالاي (Access Code) ل دخولك ودل سيطر اجون: **12345** إلك تيرنت عبر إلك ولفل





**CONCEPT PLANS**



MEADOWGLEN PARK: THE COZY CORE

THE CONCEPT

The existing Meadowglen site sits contextually within an existing neighborhood and where future development is one day anticipated. The design study provides an opportunity to demonstrate how recreational trends, preferences and visions for Spokane can be represented in site-specific spaces like community parks. In Meadowglen, these ideas are represented with a preservation of important site characteristics, a merge of sustainable and ecological measures, and a provision of recreational and passive opportunities for community gathering.

The design study provides an opportunity to demonstrate how recreational trend, preferences and visions for Spokane can be represented with a preservation of important site characteristics, a merge of sustainable and ecological measures, and a provision of recreational and passive opportunities for community gathering.

DESIGN THEMESLEGEND



NATURE

- 2 Shade Grove
- 12 Dry Rain Swale
- 16 Forestation
- 17 Restored Prairie + Meadow



COMMUNITY

- 3 Pergola
- 4 Public Restroom
- 5 Transit Stop
- 6 Parking
- 9 Main Lawn
- 14 Sun Berms



PLAY AND SPRAY

- 7 Spray Ground
- 8 Child + Toddler Play
- 11 Enclosed Dog Park
- 15 Mowed Adventure Trails



EXPLORE AND ACTIVATE

- 1 Entry Signage
- 10 Picnic Areas
- 13 Sport Courts
- 15 Rolling Meadow Walk





DESIGN THEME NATURE

The design theme focuses on nature as part of the vision to reconnect and link site visitors to the park restoration efforts as well as new possibilities such as dry rain swales (12), and native planting restoration (2,16), and new meadows (17).



SHADE AND FORESTATION

Shade has been pinpointed as provides comfort during the summer months. Lawns and gathering spaces are to be enclosed with shade trees, native forestation and understory plantings - thus allowing the park user to engage with nature in a variety of ways.



DRY RAIN SWALE

An ecological emphasis is incorporated into the concept design. Capturing rainwater from the parking lot and allowing it to meander and percolate within vegetated rain swales throughout the park makes it a part of the story. The mass of native plantings allows for a sharp contrast to the other site plantings.



LANDFORM ECOLOGIES

In line with the sustainable principles in the region, an emphasis is to be placed on reducing the amount of manicured turf and maintenance. The park provides an opportunity for the user to interact with these ecologies in a fun and topographically creative manner.



ROLLING MEADOW + PRAIRIE

One of the most beloved aspects of the existing state of the park is the natural aspect. The design proposes natural, native and drought tolerant meadows to weave throughout the park, providing a unique setting. To the north, and within the Power Line Easement, lies an opportunity to enhanced meadow and prairie ecosystems.

DESIGN THEME COMMUNITY

Community as celebration seeks to clarify what visitors can come to expect at the park. New features such as the main lawn (9) and the shade pavilions (3) seek to serve as a civic amenity to enhance the unique character and heritage of the area.



SUN BERMS

Adjacent to the rolling meadow hills are proposed sun berms, where all users, teenagers and families, can lounge, picnic and observe in a pastoral and passive part of the park.



SHADE PAVILIONS AND RESTROOMS

Anchoring the central lawn and the entry into the park is a prominent shade and seating area. Situated strategically, users will be able to watch the various people and activities within the park. The space can be utilized for gatherings, low key performances, as well as simply resting and watching.



MAIN LAWN

The concept for this park includes proposed spaces for both larger communal gatherings as well as intimate spaces. Weaved in to the natural character of the park, the central lawn provides an opportunity for recreational sports, gatherings, events and strolling.



ENCLOSED DOG PARK

A key program component that was proposed by the public was the open space for a dog park. Nestled within the existing trees, dogs are free to socialize within one another as will be the same for people lounging on benches underneath the shade.



**DESIGN THEME PLAY AND SPRAY**

Play and spray theme introduces new possibilities that connect and pull visitors into the site through the development of playful social infrastructure such as a spray ground(17), toddler play area (12), and mowed adventure trails (18).



**MOWED ADVENTURE TRAILS**

As the natural character of the site is believed currently, the concept proposes enhancing the prairie and meadow ecosystems and a creation of a series of adventure trails that would change as the site’s ecologies change, so can the creation of trails, nooks, and discoveries.



**SPRAY GROUND**

Another common suggestion from the public was having the ability to cool down during the summer with a children’s spray ground. A larger spray ground, situated near the entry and next to the central core, will provide a pulse of energy.



**ABSTRACT TODDLER PLAY**

The design concept proposes including specialty climbing and play pieces for toddlers and young children. Allowing a range of play experiences for various age groups and accessible needs is a priority within the design.



**YOUTH CLIMBING**

A centralized, large, and exciting play piece will make this park a special destination for the adventurous youth.

**DESIGN THEME EXPLORE AND ACTIVATE**

Exploration and activation acts as a catalyst in transforming the current site into not only as destination but a resource though providing the community access to sports courts (17), mowed walking trails (12), and new signage that will emerge at the park entries (1).



**SPORTS COURTS**

The concept provides a space delegated for high energy recreational sports. The ability to play tennis, pickle ball, volley ball, and other sports on a multi faceted court was of interest to the public. Nestled within proposed trees, the court would be accompanied by a comfortable seating area within the shade.



**PICNIC AREA**

The western portion of the site holds many beautiful existing trees. The concept calls to preserve these trees within this special part. Nestled within, are patio pads and public grills for barbecues and gatherings. The trees would be supplemented with additional forestation trees and understory plantings to enhance the experience of spending the day out in nature.



**MOWED WALKING TRAILS**

The northern portion of the site is limited in terms of opportunities for program and development because it lies within the power line easement. The concept proposes enhancing the prairie and meadow ecosystems and maintaining primitive walking trails with a mowing maintenance schedule.



**ENTRY SIGNAGE**

The concept proposes to address circulation by providing two primary access points. Entry Signs will be placed at both locations to guide the user into the park. Local Artists and community participants could help provide insight in regards to the design character of the signage. This level of branding would help provide an identity.



**Minnehaha Park :** Enchanted Melodies

**THE CONCEPT**

Residents of the surrounding neighborhood and Spokane enjoy the natural character and outdoor recreational opportunities. Over the years, this park has been pieced together to accommodate both active and passive program needs. Although beautiful in character, lack of upkeep, facilities and infrastructure, have provided a challenge with perception of safety and welcomeness. Both neighborhood residents and survey respondents suggest protecting the natural character while providing more program opportunities, improving facilities, maintenance and cleanliness. The community wants Minnehaha this park to feel welcome and suitable for the current needs of the groups and individuals within the community.

The park concept calls to protect and enhance the natural aspects and areas of the park such as trails and prairie. In order to accommodate additional active program, the disturbed and relatively open southern portion is to be programmed with communal gathering and active spaces. Located centrally, the existing house is to be converted into a usable amenity center and become the heart of the park. A culture and history plaza, play areas, spray grounds, multi-use fields, and pollinator gardens all provide a range of experiences. Contrasted by the organization of the active recreational areas, the passive areas weave in, out and throughout the park. They include drainage and ecological nature areas, a nature pavilion, an adventure play area, outdoor classrooms, a pump track, a dog run, as well as enhanced prairie ecosystems. The concept protects the current uses, nature and history of the park while promoting more program uses students, residents and everyday users within community.

**DESIGN THEMES**



**NATURE**

- 1 Pollinator Garden
- 2 Enchanted Woods
- 3 Enhanced Prairie
- 4 Outdoor Classrooms



**COMMUNITY**

- 5 Culture/History Plaza
- 6 Event Lawn
- 7 Main House
- 8 Enclosed Dog Park
- 9 Nature Pavilion
- 10 Drainage Park



**PLAY AND SPRAY**

- 11 Adventure Zone
- 12 Play Zone
- 13 Spray Ground
- 14 Game Courts



**EXPLORE AND ACTIVATE**

- 15 Multi-Sports Field
- 16 Trail System
- 17 Pump Track
- 18 Entry Signage





**DESIGN THEME NATURE**

The design concept focuses on nature, protecting the ecologies and providing opportunities for connection to site visitors. Prairie will be enhanced through restoration efforts. Allowing for opportunities to celebrate these ecologies include native pollinator gardens, enchanted woods, enhanced prairie ecosystems and outdoor classrooms.



**NATIVE POLLINATOR GARDEN**

Located off of the main trail, this organically formed garden provides visitors opportunities to connect to nature as this area will be planted with native grasses, perennials, and other species that are indigenous to the Inland Northwest region. The corridor will improve diversity, and support pollinators like bees.



**ENCHANTED WOODS**

According to local lore, the site is considered haunted. The woods are located on the southern edge of the park and this spooky experience includes unique walking trails and follies.



**ENHANCED PRAIRIE**

One of the most beloved aspects of the existing state of the park is the natural aspect. The design proposes natural, native and drought tolerant meadows in the Northeast corner of the park. This corner of the park will have an domino like effect in providing a robust ecosystem improvements for the areas non-human visitors.



**OUTDOOR CLASSROOMS**

Nestled alongside a wandering path and under the existing canopy are strategically placed outdoor classrooms. Users will have access to outdoor space that offers respite from the indoors, but an opportunity to still work on tasks.

**DESIGN THE COMMUNITY**

This park is intended to serve the various needs of the community while celebrating its history. The existing house will be re-purposed and become the heart. A culture and history plaza tells stories about the area. Event lawns, dog parks, seating groves, and outdoor seating areas allow to come together or find respite.



**CULTURE/HISTORY PLAZA**

At the center of the site is a culture plaza, which could include concessions, a bocce ball court, outdoor seating, as well as public art showcasing the rich history of the neighborhood. Through the renewal of the house and new plaza space, the site is poised to become a hub for all ages.



**EVENT LAWN**

The concept for this park includes proposed spaces for both larger communal gatherings as well as intimate spaces. Weaved in to the natural character of the park, the central lawn provides an opportunity for recreational sports, gatherings, events and strolling.



**MAIN HOUSE**

The old structure is the core of the park. The indoor space can be used to host youth groups and programming, with opportunities from classrooms to move outdoors. Space can also be allocated for gear rentals. .



**ENCLOSED DOG RUN**

A key program component that was proposed by the public was the open space for a dog run. Located on the western edge of the park, dogs are free to socialize within one another as will be the same for people lounging on benches underneath the shade.



**DESIGN THEME PLAY AND SPRAY**

The community and survey respondents strongly endorsed parks improvement focused on play and spray ground opportunities. A variety of play types, both exciting and adventurous, make this place a special destination for children and families.



**ADVENTURE ZONE**

Minnehaha’s adventure zone theme is a natural playground, incorporating climbing aspects and reflecting the surrounding natural environment.



**PLAY ZONE**

The design concept proposes including exciting and imaginative play pieces for toddlers, children and kids. Allowing a range of play experiences for various age groups and accessible needs is a priority within the design.



**SPRAY GROUND**

Another common suggestion from the public was having the ability to cool down during the summer with a children’s spray ground. A larger spray ground, situated near the entry and next to the central core, will provide a pulse of energy.



**BOCCE BALL COURT**

A bocce ball court provides programmed space that’s suitable for all ages.

**DESIGN THEME EXPLORE AND ACTIVATE**

Exploration will remain a core value of the concept design. Outdoor opportunities will present themselves in passive and active ways. Entry signage will provide an identity and friendly entry. Trails will be protected, and adventurous activities will unfold as you discover them.



**MULTI-USE SPORTS FIELD**

The concept provides a space delegated for team centric recreational sports. The ability to play soccer, football, volley ball, and other sports on a multi purpose field was of interest to the public. Nestled within proposed trees, the court would be accompanied by a comfortable seating area within the shade.



**HIKING + MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAILS**

The northern portion of the site is home to a network of hiking and mountain bike trails. The concept proposes enhancing the established forest ecosystems and trail systems in an attempt to connect back to the rustic and rural identity of the site that is of interest to the public.



**PUMP TRACK**

The pump track provides learning space for youth and beginners to experience before heading up to Beacon Hill.



**ENTRY SIGNAGE**

The concept proposes to address circulation by providing two primary access points. Entry signs will be placed at both locations to guide the user into the park. Local artists and community participants could help provide insight in regards to the design character of the signage. This level of branding would help provide an identity.



## **SPECIAL INTEREST NATURE CENTER**

The Nature Center preserves space within the park that aligns with the projects vision of community building and environmental protection and restoration. The area will include a shade structure, native ecologies, and education signage that will connect users to the regional landscape.



## **DRAINAGE PARK**

An ecological emphasis is incorporated into the concept design. Capturing rainwater and allowing it to meander and percolate within vegetated rain swales throughout the park makes it a part of the story. The area will trails, ecologies and native plantings, signage and educational opportunities.

## **NATURE PAVILION**

Located in the drainage and ecological park, there will be a covered shade structure that acts as a rest point for bike riders as well as an resting, learning, and classroom area for users.



## **EDUCATIONAL SIGNAGE**

Educational signage will found throughout the site to aid in understanding of the ecological underpinnings of the nature zone.



COWLEY PARK CONCEPT UNDER DEVELOPMENT

**DESIGNWORKSHOP**

Landscape Architecture  
Planning  
Urban Design

120 E. Main St.  
Aspen, CO 81611  
970-925-8354  
970-920-1387 fax

[www.designworkshop.com](http://www.designworkshop.com)

**MEMORANDUM**

To: City of Spokane Parks & Recreation  
Department

From: Design Workshop

Date: June 15, 2022

Project Name: Spokane Parks and Public Open Spaces  
Master Plan

Subject: Natural Lands Assessment

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**Priority Areas for Conservation****Composite Map Content Overview**

This document offers a framework to identify priority areas for conservation and a high-level analysis of the final composite maps. The final map incorporates the following composites: the Wildlife Habitat Lands Map, the Landscape Characteristics Map, the Adjacent to Existing Public Lands Map, and the Agriculture Lands Map. The final map prioritizes the criteria from the composite maps for conservation by using natural breaks to categorize the values into very high, high, medium, and low priority.

The Wildlife Habitat Lands Map prioritizes habitat areas for species habitats such as birds and mammals and fish distribution areas. The Landscape Characteristics Map prioritizes hydrology, riparian habitat, wetlands, land cover, tree canopy areas, landforms, and hazardous geology. The Adjacent to Existing Public Lands Map prioritizes future conservation areas, conservation easements, rural-conservation land use, urban reserve land use, and a half-mile buffer around parks, natural lands, and water bodies. Agriculture Lands Map prioritizes prime farmland, agricultural land cover, and land use.

**Wildlife Habitat Lands Composite**

Wildlife Habitat Lands Map = Ranked and Combined Wildlife Habitat

The Wildlife Lands Map identifies habitat areas that are important for conservation. This map uses species habitat data provided by the City of Spokane and data from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The ranking for High, Medium, and Low include the following considerations: Species habitats that the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife "Priority Habitats and Species Program" consider Species of Greatest Conservation Need or are Priority Species. The ranking also weighs higher for multiple overlapping habitats, areas within Spokane's Urban Growth Boundary, and habitat areas within riparian zones and old-growth forests.

	<i>Ranking</i>	<i>Source</i>	<i>Notes</i>
<i>Wildlife Habitat Inputs (Map A2)</i>			
<b><i>WILDLIFE HABITAT COMPOSITE (Map A1)</i></b>			Species of Greatest Conservation Need = SGCN
<b><i>Habitat Area: Birds</i></b>			
Bald Eagle	High 100	City of Spokane GIS Data	SGCN
Cavity-nesting Ducks	Medium 10	City of Spokane GIS Data	Normal Conservation
Tundra Swan	High 100	City of Spokane GIS Data	Priority Species under WDFW
Waterfowl Concentrations	High 100	City of Spokane GIS Data	Normal Conservation, nesting areas, overlaps with other habitats
Western Grebe	High 100	City of Spokane GIS Data	SGCN - Endangered
<b><i>Habitat Area: Mammals</i></b>			
Moose	High 100	City of Spokane GIS Data	Priority Species under WDFW
Rocky Mountain Elk	Medium 10	City of Spokane GIS Data	Normal Conservation
Northwest White-tailed Deer	Low 1	City of Spokane GIS Data	Normal Conservation
Wolf Pack Areas	High 100	Washington FSW GIS	SGCN, Five Sisters Wolf Pack 2017
<b><i>Integrated Fish Distribution Species</i></b>			Fish species distribution listed in below in Wildlife Rational.



Documented	High 100	Washington FSW GIS
Historic Documented	High 100	Washington FSW GIS
Presumed	Low 1	Washington FSW GIS

### Wildlife Rationale

The Wildlife Lands Map identifies habitat areas that are important for conservation. This map uses species habitat data provided by the City of Spokane. The highest priority areas to protect wildlife habitats are around existing water bodies, specifically Spokane River and Latah Creek. High-priority areas include documented fish species and have multiple areas of bird habitats. Other high-priority areas include the northwest and northeast of Spokane, where many bird species overlay with different habitats, including Moose, Northwest White-tailed Deer, and wolf pack areas.

The ranking for High, Medium, and Low values incorporates the following considerations: Species habitats that the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife "Priority Habitats and Species Program" consider Species of Greatest Conservation Need or are Priority Species. The ranking also weighs higher for multiple overlapping habitats, areas within Spokane's Urban Growth Boundary, and habitat areas within riparian zones and old-growth forests.

The wildlife habitat composite map contains three layers: *Habitat Species, Integrated Fish Distribution Species, Wolf Pack Areas*. All layers have High: 100 values, Medium: 10 values, and Low: 1 value. Each layer within the map was converted to a raster and then reclassified to the high, medium, and low values based on categorical data within the layer.

### *Habitat Species Areas: Ranked according to the Species Type (EOCODEDES)*

Bald Eagle 100

Cavity-nesting Ducks 10

Tundra Swan 100

Waterfowl Concentrations 100

Western Grebe 100

Moose 100

Rocky Mountain Elk 10

Northwest White-tailed Deer 1

*Integrated Fish Distribution Species: Ranked according to Distribution Type (DISTTYPE)*

Documented fish areas and Historical Documented fish locations are ranked High: 100 values. The presumed areas of fish are rated Low: 1 value. This data is from *Washington's State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP, 2015) for conserving the state's fish and wildlife and the natural habitats*.

The Species included in the documented and presumed areas include the following fish:

Rainbow Trout

Brown Trout

Steelhead Trout

Eastern Brook Trout

Westslope Cutthroat Trout

Burbot

Kokanee Salmon

Smallmouth Bass

Largemouth Bass

Mountain Whitefish

Walleye

*The Five Sisters Wolf Pack Habitat area: Ranked high according to the range area of the Pack (PACK)*

The pack area is High: 100 values

The final Composite map reclassifies the Habitat Species, fish Distribution, and Wolf pack raster layers with High: 100, Medium: High values show the distribution of documented fish and habitats that are protected or vulnerable. These values are areas with a high concentration of habitats that overlap and locations that are high-priority species for conservation.

Medium values include presumed documented fish areas and habitat species that are not threatened or are Normal Conservation. Low values are where species are medium priority or are areas with minimal overlap.

### **Landscape Characteristics (B1, B2, B3)**

The Landscape Characteristics Composite map identifies abundant landscape features and values habitat landcover, scenic resources, conservation areas, and connectivity. This map combines values from the Hydrology Composite Map, the Landforms Composite Map, and the Adjacent to Existing Public Lands Map.

<i>Landscape Inputs (Maps B1, B2, B3)</i>	<i>Ranking</i>	<i>Source</i>	<i>Notes</i>
<b><i>HYDROLOGY COMPOSITE (MAP B1)</i></b>			
River or Stream	High 100	City of Spokane GIS Data	
Lakes, Ponds, Marshes	High 100	City of Spokane GIS Data Washington GIS Data	
Riparian Habitat Buffer .25-mile	Very High 1000	Washington GIS Data	
Riparian Habitat Zones	Very High	City of Spokane	



Wetland Zones

1000 Client Data

Very City of

High Spokane

1000 Client Data

Wetlands – Permanent

High City of

100 Spokane GIS  
Data

Wetlands – Seasonal

Low City of

1 Spokane GIS  
Data

Wetlands – Emergent Herbaceous or Woody

Very City of

High Spokane

1000 Client Data

100-year Floodplain

Medium City of

10 Spokane GIS  
Data

Aquifer

Medium City of

10 Spokane GIS  
Data

## ***LANDFORMS COMPOSITE (MAP B2)***

### ***Land Cover***

National Land  
Cover Database =  
NLCD

Shrublands

Low NLCD 2019

1

Prairies and Steppe

Low NLCD 2019

1

Grass Lands

Evergreen Forest

High City of

100 Spokane

Client Data

Old Growth / Mature Forest

Very City of

High Spokane

1000 Client Data

Herbaceous Vegetation

Medium NLCD 2019

10

Tree Canopy Areas

Very NLCD 2019

High

1000

Urban Natural Open Space

High City of

100 Spokane

Client Data

***Landforms***

Cliffs/Bluffs

High 100	City of Spokane Client Data
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High Mountains

Very High 1000	USGS GIS Data
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Low Mountains

Medium 10	USGS GIS Data
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High Hills

High 100	USGS GIS Data
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Moderate to Low Hills

Low 1	USGS GIS Data
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***Geologic Conditions***

Hazardous Geology

High 100	City of Spokane GIS Data
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Erodible Soil

Medium 10	City of Spokane GIS Data
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***ADJACENT TO EXISTING PUBLIC LANDS (MAP B3)***

National Conservation Easement Database = NCED
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Rural Conservation Land Use

Very High 1000	Spokane County GIS Data
----------------------	-------------------------------

Urban Reserve Land Use

Very High 1000	Spokane County GIS Data
----------------------	-------------------------------

Buffer ½ mile around Conservation Easements

Very High 1000	NCED
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Buffer ½ mile around Conservation Futures 2018

Very High 1000	City of Spokane GIS Data
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Buffer ½ mile around Conservation Future Nominations 2021

Very High 1000	City of Spokane Client Data
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Buffer ½ mile around Preliminary and Final Plats

Low  
1  
City of  
Spokane GIS  
Data

Buffer ½ mile around existing lakes, rivers, streams

High  
100  
City of  
Spokane GIS  
Data

Buffer ½ mile around existing parks

High  
100  
City of  
Spokane GIS  
Data

Buffer ½ mile around Federal and State Lands

High  
100  
Washington  
GIS Data

### Hydrology Rationale

The Hydrology Map identifies water bodies, wetlands, and riparian zones as essential areas for conservation. The highest priority areas specifically identify riparian zones and wetlands along the Spokane River, Lata Creek, and other outlying areas of the city. These areas significantly impact water quality, vegetation, soil, aquatic, and terrestrial habitats and are essential for future conservation. This map uses the City of Spokane and the State of Washington GIS Data.

The ranking for Very High, High, Medium, and Low include the following considerations: Riparian Habitat Zones, Riparian Habitat 0.25-mile Buffer, Wetland Zones, and Emergent Herbaceous or Woody Wetlands are the highest priority as they are the areas with the most concentration of vegetation and wildlife habitats and ecological benefits. Permanent wetlands and all water bodies are a high priority. The 100-year Floodplain and Aquifer are a medium priority, and seasonal wetlands are considered low.

All Reclass Raster Data are reclassified based on very high, high, medium, and low values.

Very High Values 1000 – Riparian Habitat Buffer Width 75ft is a very high value, Land Cover Wetlands include Emergent Herbaceous Wetlands and Woody Wetlands and are equally valued as very high. Wildlife zones from the City of Spokane Habitat Species data include Riparian and Wetland Zones; both valued very high.

High Values 100 – Waterbody values include Washington state, Spokane County, and the City of Spokane and are equally valued as high. All waterlines are valued as high. Wetland data from City of Spokane GIS Data is valued with permanent lakes, rivers, or marshes as high value



Medium Values 10 - The Aquifer has a medium value on any area where the aquifer is present. 100-year flood.

Low Values 1 – the 500-year flood as low. Seasonal lakes or marshes as low.

The final Composite map reclassifies the hydrology raster data with very high, high, and low values. Very high values look at places that overlap and focus primarily on Spokane River, Latah Creek, and riparian and wetlands zones. High values include the aquifer and areas with water bodies. The low values include Intermittent streams or rivers, seasonal wetlands, and the 500-year flood.

### Landform Rationale

The Landform Composite Map identifies landcover, landforms, and geological conditions that should prioritize areas for future conservation. The highest priority specifically identifies the Spokane River, Lata Creek, high mountains, cliffs, and steep slopes. These areas are significant unique landscape features with many ecological, geological, and recreational benefits and should be considered for future conservation. This map uses the City of Spokane, the State of Washington GIS Data, the 2019 National Land Cover Database and United States Geological Survey (USGS) GIS Data.

All the data is ranked using categorical values except the Tree Canopy Area, with values using Natural Breaks showing high as the most concentrated areas of tree canopies.

Very High Values 1000 – City of Spokane Client Data: Old-Growth Mature Forest. NLCD 2019: Tree Canopy Areas. USGS Landforms: High mountains, Scattered High mountains.

High Values 100 – City of Spokane Client Data: Cliffs/Bluffs and Urban Natural Open Space. NLCD 2019 Landcover Habitat: Evergreen Forest. USGS Landforms: High Hills, Scattered High Hills. City of Spokane GIS Data: Hazardous Geology.

Medium Values 10 - NLCD 2019 Landcover Habitat: Herbaceous Vegetation. USGS Landforms: Low Mountains, Scattered Low Mountains. City of Spokane GIS Data: Erodible Soil

Low Values 1 – NLCD 2019 Landcover Habitat: Prairies and Steppe, Shrublands. USGS Landforms: Moderate Hills, Scattered Moderate Hills, Scattered Low Hills.

The final Composite map reclassifies the landform raster data with very high, high, and medium values. Very high values include areas that overlap high mountains, cliffs, tree canopy areas, and mature old-growth forests. High values include evergreen forests, natural open space, tree

canopy areas, hazardous geology, and low mountains and high hills. Medium Values are areas with Herbaceous Vegetation and erodible soils.

#### Adjacent to Existing Public Lands Rationale

The Adjacent to Existing Public Lands Map identifies crucial areas for future conservation and needs conservation protection for natural lands. This map uses the City of Spokane Client Data, the City of Spokane GIS data, and Spokane County GIS Data.

The composite map contains half-mile buffers around Conservation Easements, Conservation Futures 2018, Conservation Future Nominations 2021, future and preliminary plats, existing lakes, rivers and streams, existing parks, and Federal and State Lands. It also incorporates Spokane County's Rural Conservation Land Use data outlined as environmentally sensitive areas and Urban Reserve Land Use data with lands outside the Urban Growth Area considered areas for growth within a 40-year planning horizon. The analysis also highlights the Little Spokane River corridor (north side of Spokane) and the Latah Valley corridor (southwest Spokane) as Special Habitat Conservation Zones that prioritize connectivity and riparian habitat areas. These are areas recommended by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife as top priority habitat and connectivity needs.

The ranking for Very High, High, and Low is weighted with the following considerations:

Very High values 1000 – Spokane County's Rural Conservation Land Use, Spokane County Urban Reserve Land Use, Buffer ½ mile around Conservation Easements, Buffer ½ mile around Conservation Futures 2018, Buffer ½ mile around Conservation Future Nominations 2021

High Values 100 – Buffer ½ mile around existing lakes, rivers, streams (includes all water bodies and water lines data). Buffer ½ mile around existing parks (all City and County parks for Spokane). Buffer ½ mile around Federal and State Lands (existing federal lands and state parks).

Low Values 1 – Buffer ½ mile around Preliminary Plats and Final Plats

#### ***Conservation Futures locations***

Future nominations 2021 to show the following boundaries:

Palisades 06-21

Saltese 07-21

Antoine Peak 01-21

Fancher 05-21

Dishman Hills 03-21

Dishman Hills 02-21

Trolley Trail 08-21

Dragoon Creek 04-21 (outside of map boundary and not included in the composite)

### Rural Conservation Land Use

*Source: Spokane County's Critical Areas program*

"The Rural Conservation category applies to environmentally sensitive areas, including critical areas and wildlife corridors. Criteria to designate boundaries for this category were developed from Spokane County's Critical Areas program and a study by the University of Washington titled Wildlife Corridors and Landscape Linkages, An Approach to Biodiversity Planning for Spokane County, Washington. The category will encourage low impact uses and utilize clustering and/or other open space techniques to protect sensitive areas and preserve open space. Density: The density of the Rural Conservation category is one (1) dwelling unit per 20 acres with a bonus density of (one) 1 dwelling unit per 10 acres for preserving open space and environmentally sensitive areas through clustered housing."

Source Description: [Descriptions-of-the-Different-Categories-PDF \(spokanecounty.org\)](https://www.spokanecounty.org/files/2017/04/Descriptions-of-the-Different-Categories-PDF)

### Urban Reserve Land Use:

*Source: Spokane County's Critical Areas program*

"The Urban Reserve Area category includes lands outside the Urban Growth Area that are considered for growth within a 40-year planning horizon. These areas are given special consideration, such as low-density, large-lot development, so that land uses established in the near future do not preclude their eventual conversion to urban densities. For example, a 1-acre to 5-acre per lot subdivision pattern in these areas would create parcels that would be difficult to divide into urban densities. Innovative techniques such as residential clustering may be used to allow residential development rights and ensure that these areas will be available in the future. The use of public water systems or community wells is encouraged. Community drain fields may also be appropriate in the Urban Reserve category. Density: The density of the Urban Reserve category is one (1) dwelling unit per 20 acres, which may be increased to 1 dwelling



unit per 5 acres for clustered housing. Within a cluster subdivision, the remainder lot must be reserved for future urban use. The minimum lot size in a cluster subdivision could be as low as 10,000 sq. ft.; the maximum lot size is 1 acre.”

Source Description: [\*Descriptions-of-the-Different-Categories-PDF \(spokanecounty.org\)\*](#)

The final composite map focuses on areas where future conservation needs the most protection for natural lands. The highest values show areas where the Urban Reserve Area and Rural Conservation lands overlap with the conservation futures, conservation easements, and public land buffer areas. The high value shows areas where the data is very high and prevalent but might not have overlap with other data. The medium priority values are buffers around the future and preliminary plats, existing lakes, rivers and streams, existing parks, and Federal and State Lands and do not overlap with the other data.

The urban growth boundary, preliminary plats, and future plats are considered in the analysis but not included in the composite map. These areas are currently developed or future development and are regarded as high-growth areas that will impact future conservation.

### **AGRICULTURE LANDS COMPOSITE**

The Agriculture Lands Map identifies areas that are currently being used for agriculture, as well as identifying lands that could be suitable for agricultural uses.

<i>Agriculture Inputs (Map C1)</i>	<i>Ranking</i>	<i>Source</i>	<i>Notes</i>
<b><i>AGRICULTURE LANDS COMPOSITE MAP (Map C1)</i></b>			
			USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service = USDA NRCS
Prime Farmland	High 100	USDA NRCS	
Statewide Importance Farmland	High 100	USDA NRCS	
Agriculture Land Use	Medium 10	City of Spokane GIS Data	

Agriculture Land Use Zoning (LTA, STA) County	High 100	Spokane County GIS Data	Small Tract Agriculture (STA), Large Tract Agriculture (LTA)
Cultivated Crops Land Cover	Low 1	NLCD 2019	
Hay \ Pastureland Cover	Low 1	NLCD 2019	

### Agriculture Lands Rationale

The Agriculture Lands Composite Map identifies areas currently being used for agriculture and identifies lands that could be suitable for agricultural uses. It prioritizes Prime Farmland and Agriculture Land Use. This map uses the City of Spokane GIS data, Spokane County GIS Data, the 2019 National Land Cover Database and USDA National Resources Conservation Services GIS Data.

The ranking for High, Medium, and Low is weighted with the following considerations:

High Values 100 – USDA NRCS Prime Farmland and Farmland with Statewide importance. City of Spokane Land Use Zoning District Large Tract Agriculture (LTA) and Small Tract Agriculture (STA).

Medium Values 10 – City of Spokane Land Use Agriculture - Land Use Code 83, Agriculture classified under current use chapter 84.34 RCW.

Low Values 1 – City of Spokane Land Use Agriculture: Land Use Code 82 - Agriculture related activities, Land Use Code 81 - Agriculture (not classified under current use law). 2019 NLCD Cultivated Crops Land Cover, 2019 NLCD Hay and Pasture Cover.

#### *Large Tract Agriculture (LTA)*

“Large Tract Agricultural areas are primarily devoted to grain, legume, and grass seed production. Non-resource-related uses are generally prohibited. Residences will usually be associated with farming operations. Density: One (1) dwelling unit per 40 acres.”

#### *Small Tract Agriculture (STA)*

“Small Tract Agricultural areas are primarily devoted to grain, fruit, berry, vegetable, milk, Christmas trees and forage crop production. Non-resource-related uses other than rural

residences are generally prohibited. This type of agriculture is suitable for small-scale operations and may be conducted on relatively small parcels. Residences on large lots may or may not be associated with farming operations. Seasonal festivals and other activities associated with the marketing of agricultural products will be common occurrences in these areas. Density: One (1) dwelling unit per 10 acres.”